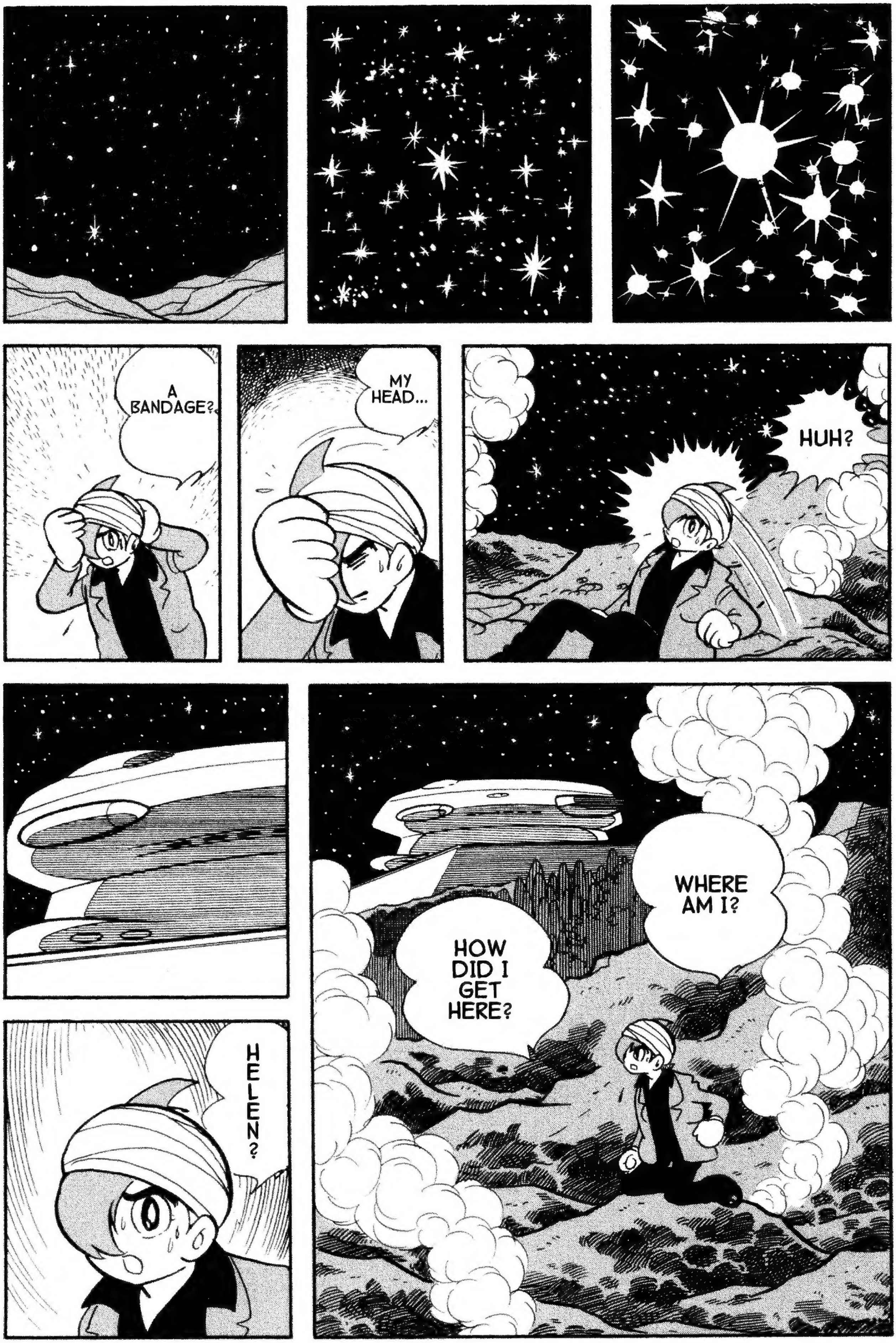
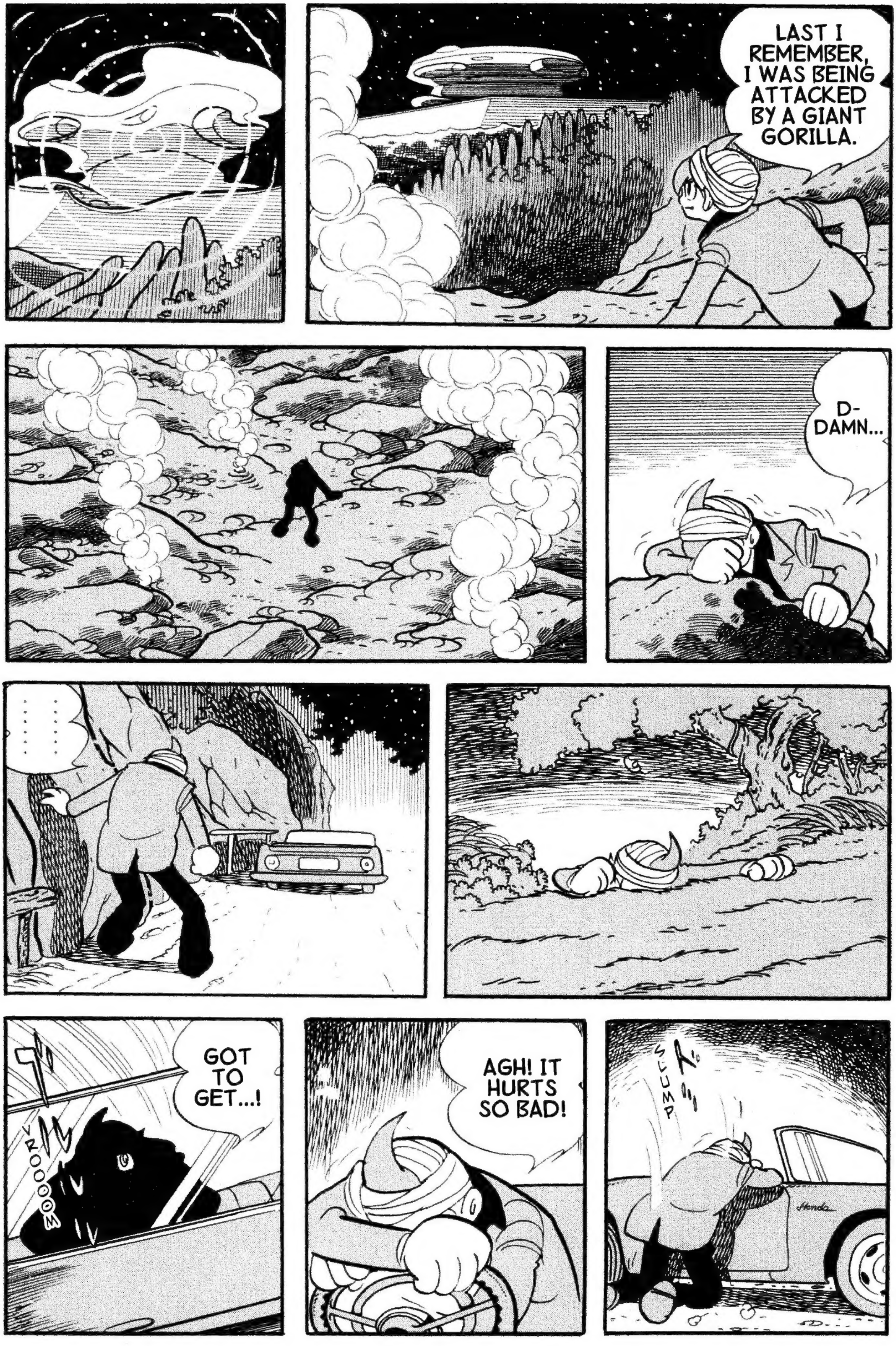
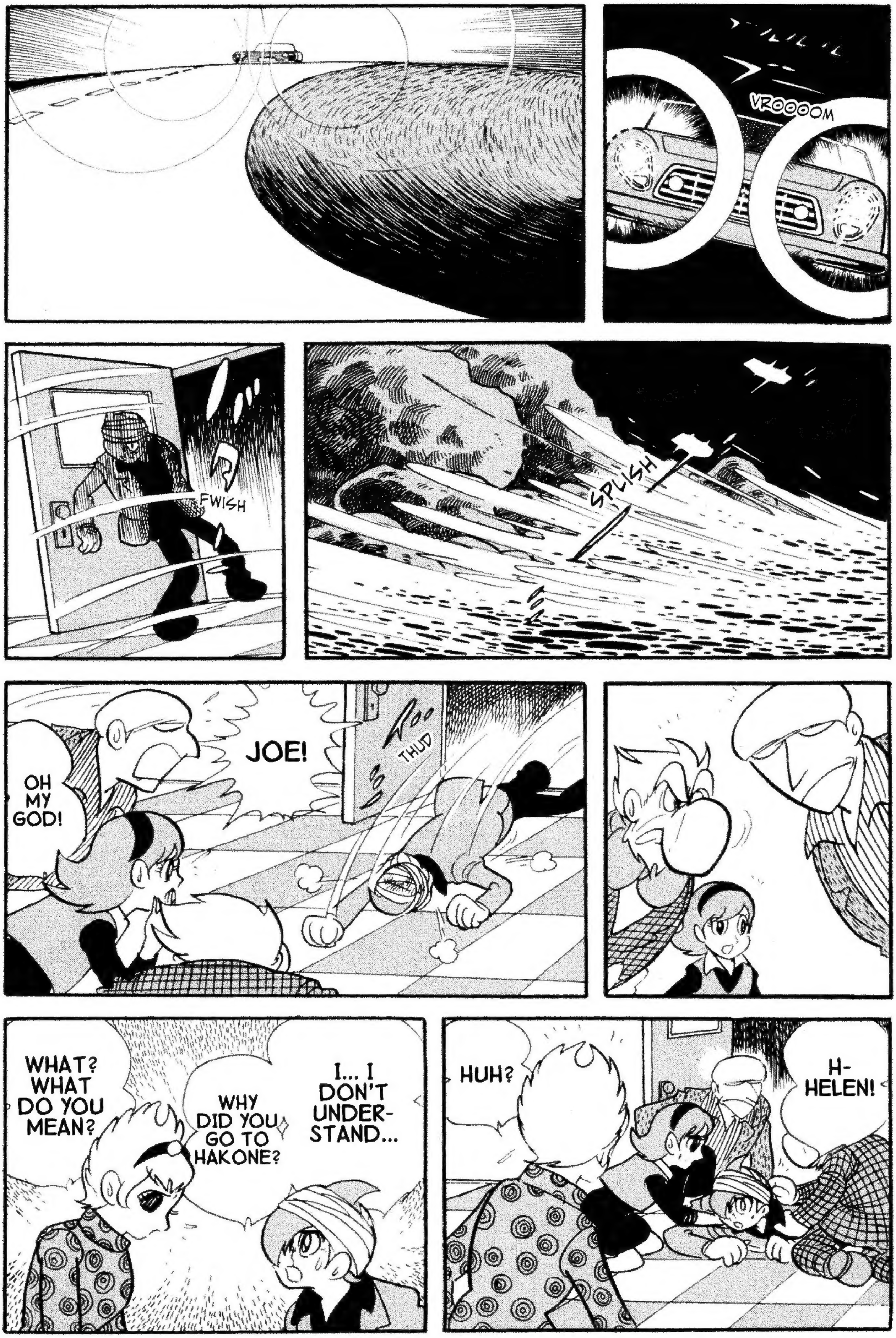
サイボーグ
CYBORG
009

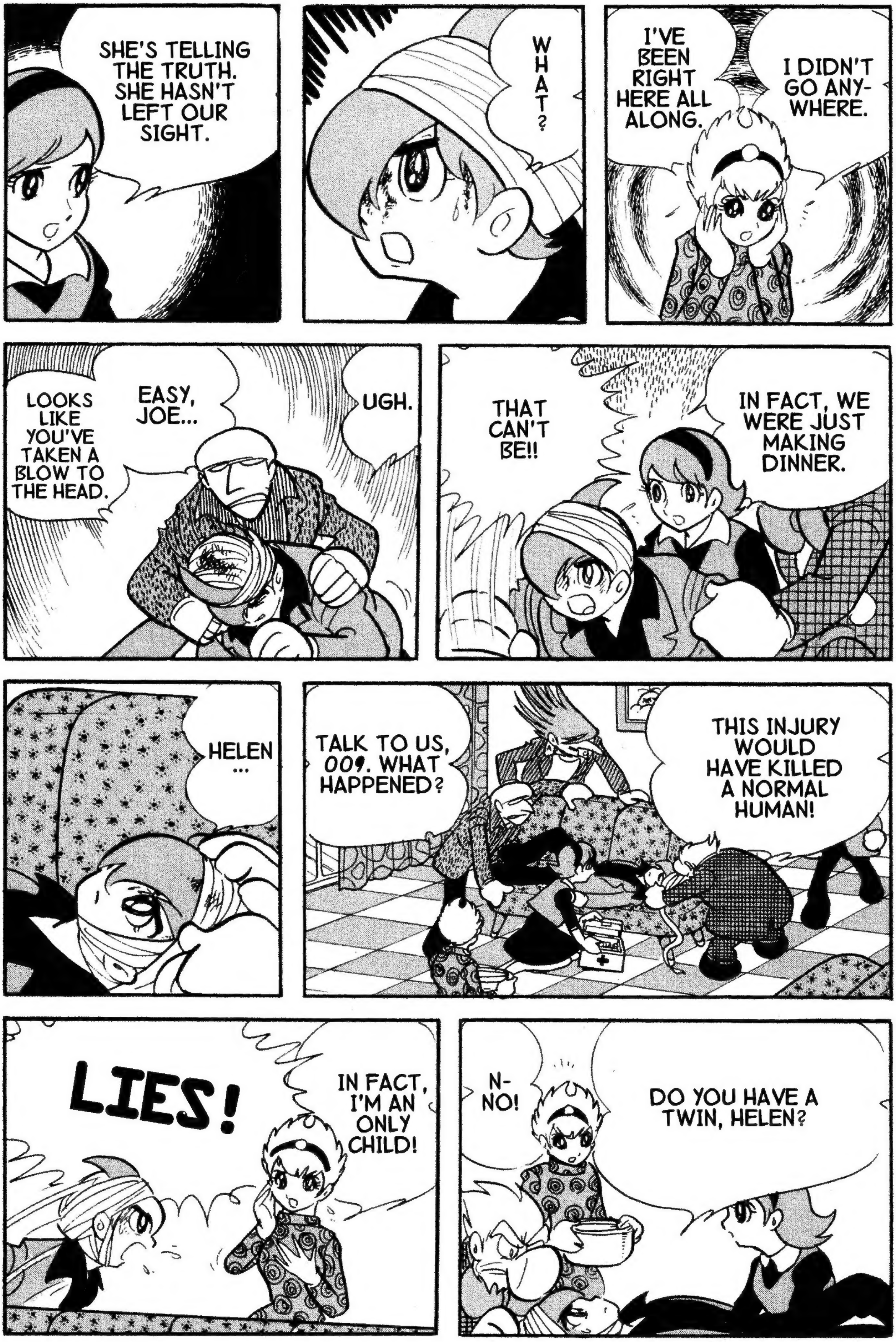
9

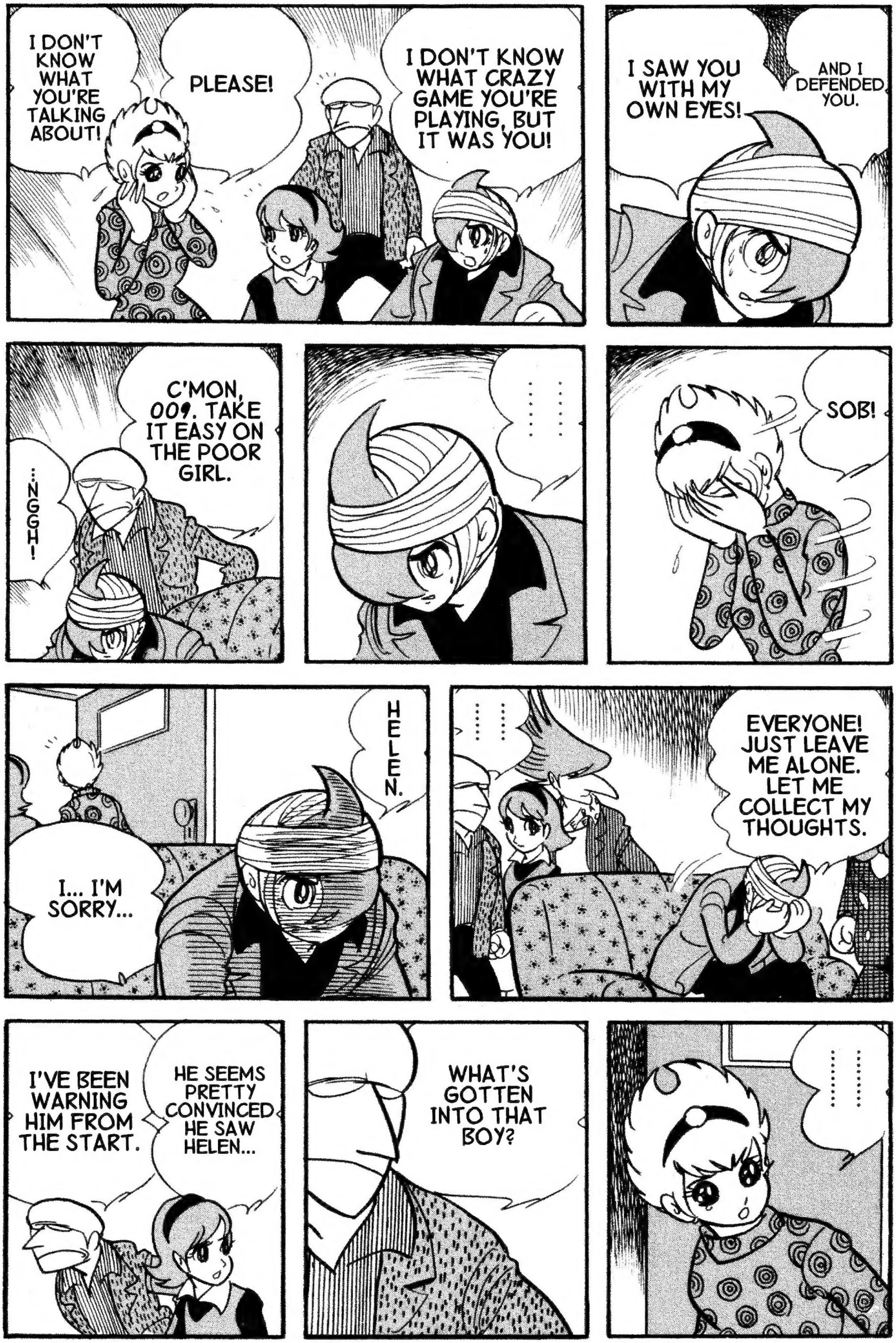
Shotaro Ishinomori

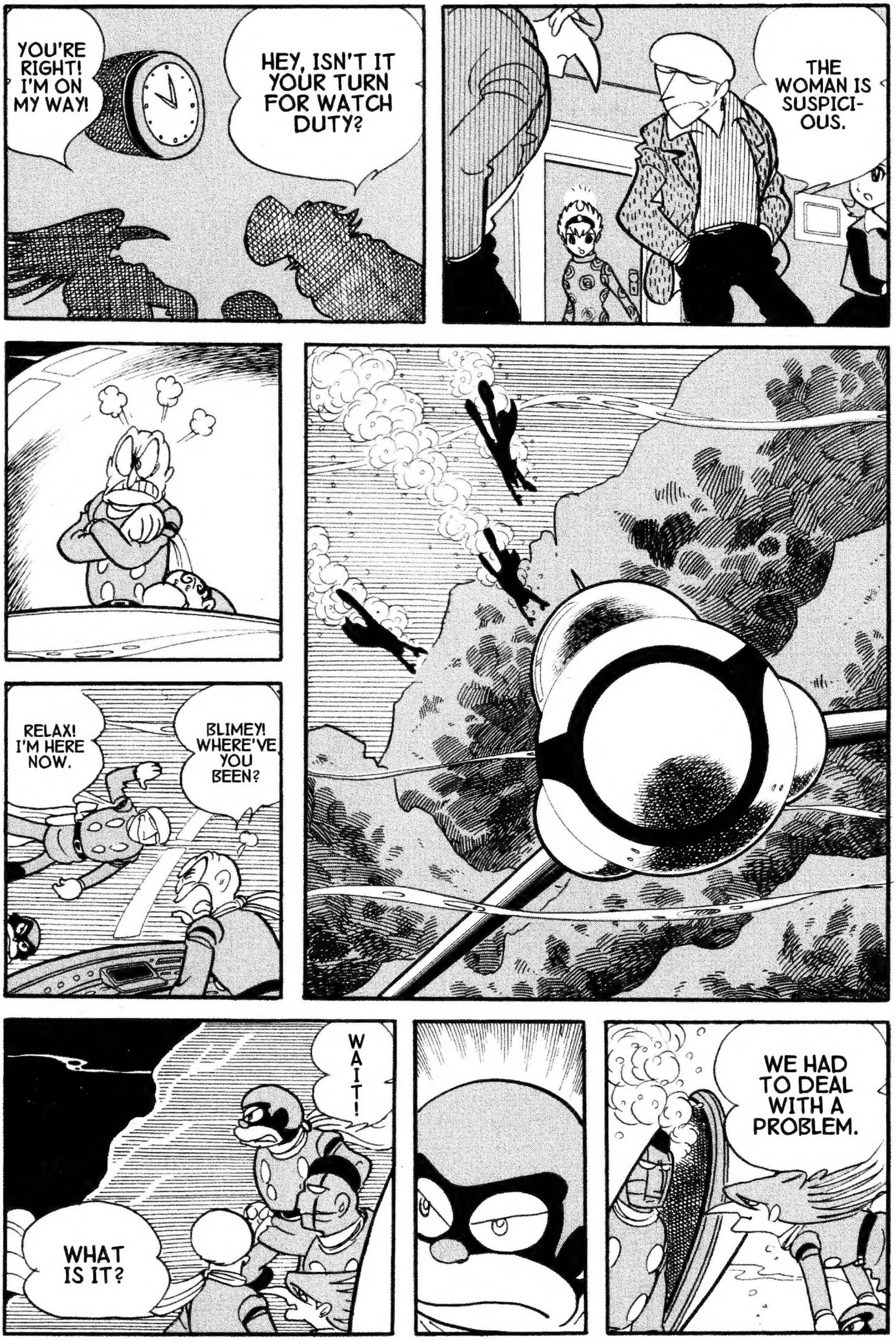

HUH?
MY HEAD...
A BANDAGE?
WHERE AM I?
HOW DID I GET HERE?
HELEN?

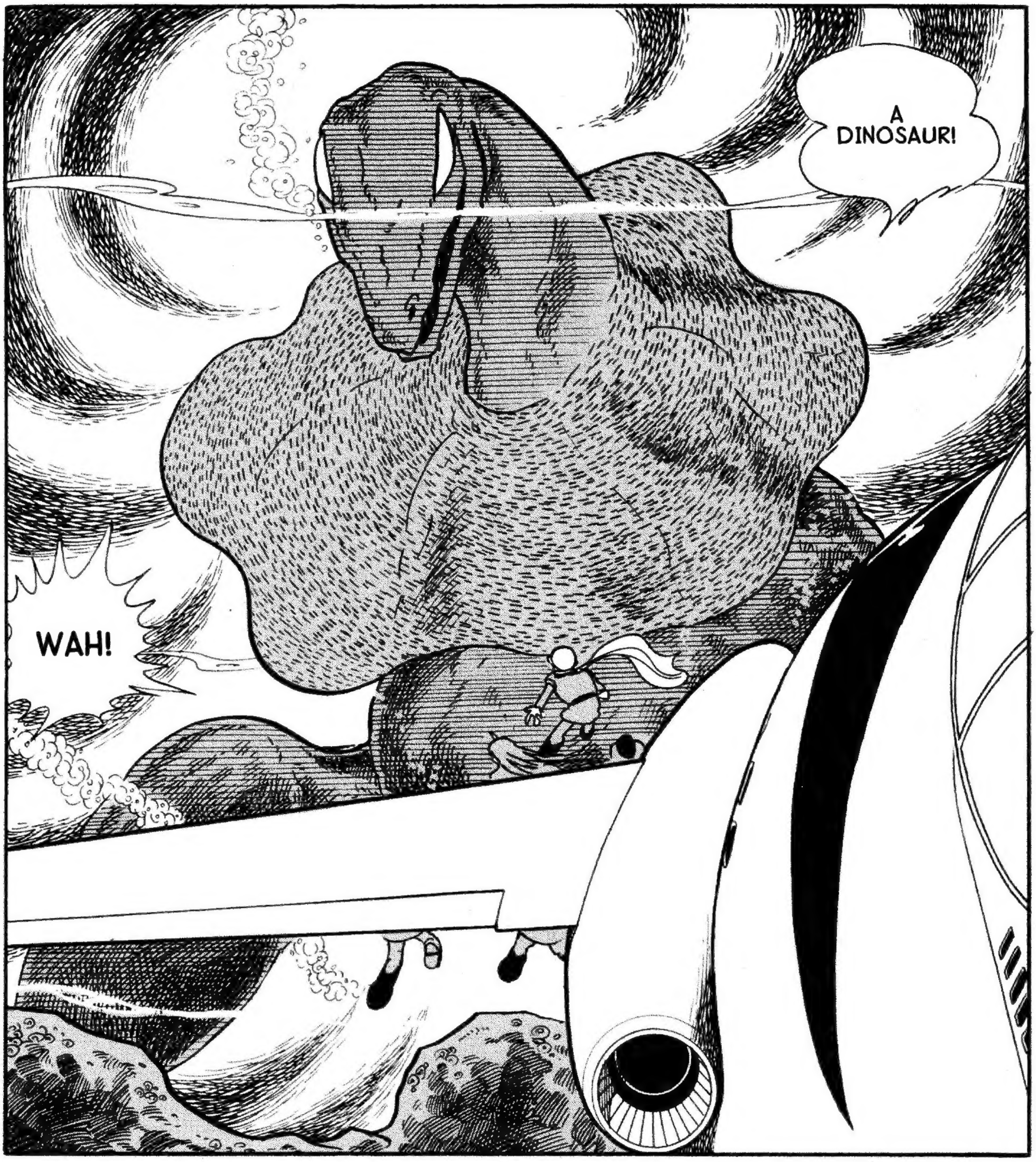

LAST I REMEMBER, I WAS BEING ATTACKED BY A GIANT GORILLA.
D-DAMN...
......
GOT TO GET...!
VROOOOOM
AGH! IT HURTS SO BAD!
SLUMP
Honda

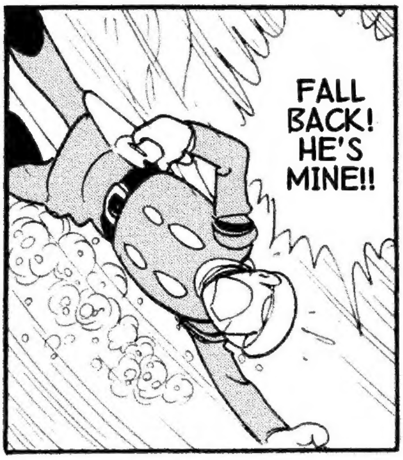

VROOOOM
FWISH
SPLISH
OH MY GOD!
JOE!
THUD
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY DID YOU GO TO HAKONE?
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
HUH?
H- HELEN!

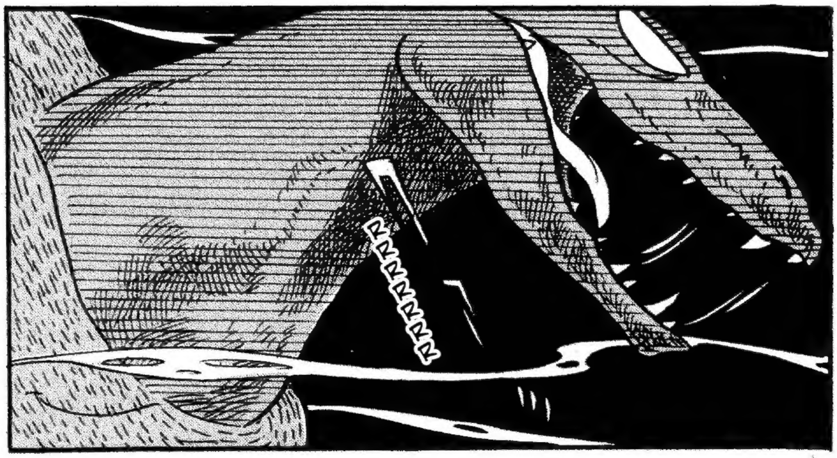

I DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE.
I'VE BEEN RIGHT HERE ALL ALONG.
WHAT?
SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH. SHE HASN'T LEFT OUR SIGHT.
IN FACT, WE WERE JUST MAKING DINNER.
THAT CAN'T BE!!
UGH.
EASY, JOE...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE TAKEN A BLOW TO THE HEAD.
THIS INJURY WOULD HAVE KILLED A NORMAL HUMAN!
TALK TO US, 009. WHAT HAPPENED?
HELEN ...
DO YOU HAVE A TWIN, HELEN?
N-NO!
IN FACT, I'M AN ONLY CHILD!
LIES!

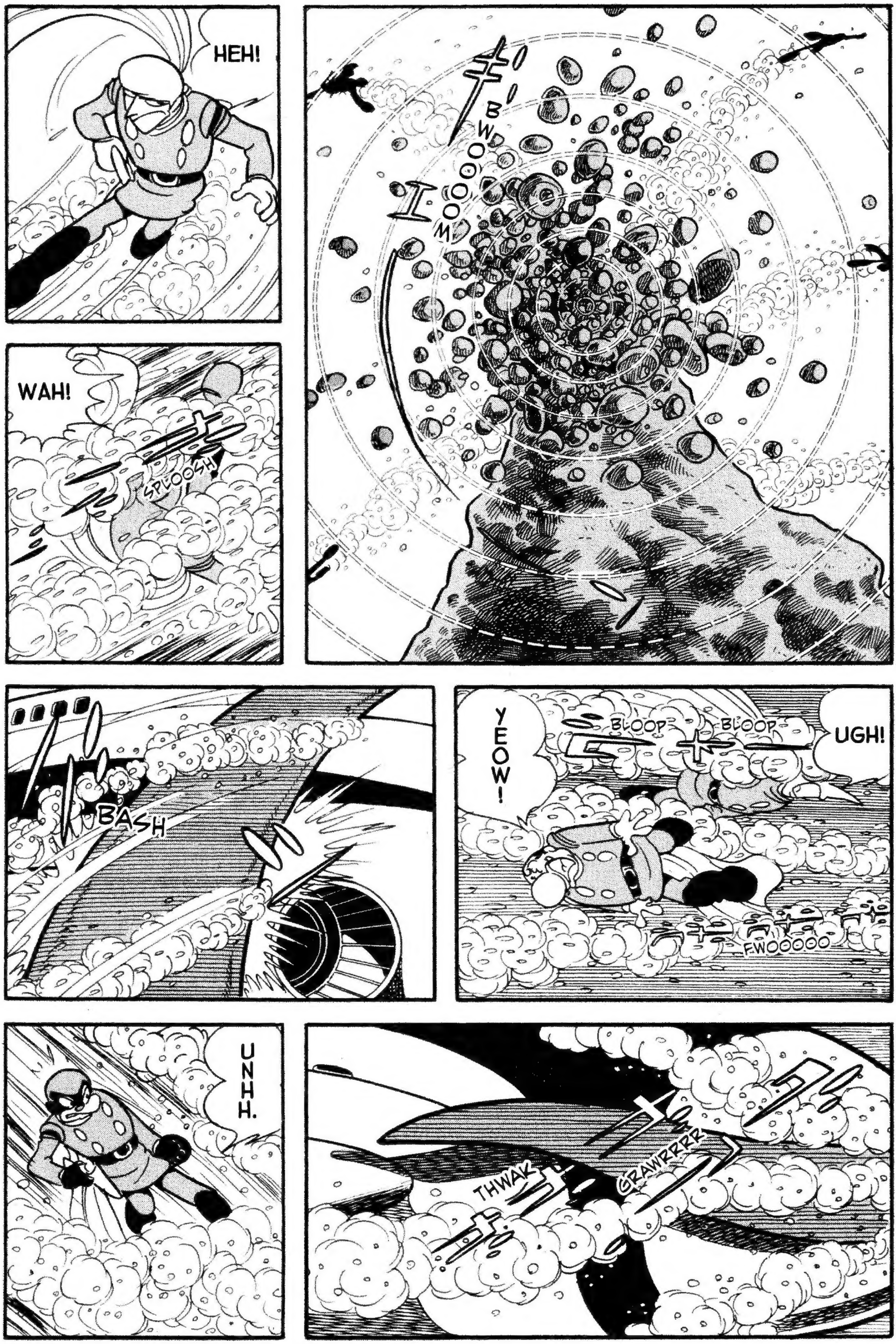

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
PLEASE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CRAZY GAME YOU'RE PLAYING, BUT IT WAS YOU!
I SAW YOU WITH MY OWN EYES!
AND I DEFENDED YOU.
C'MON, 009. TAKE IT EASY ON THE POOR GIRL.
...NGGH!
......
SOB!
HELEN.
I... I'M SORRY...
......
EVERYONE! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE. LET ME COLLECT MY THOUGHTS.
I'VE BEEN WARNING HIM FROM THE START.
HE SEEMS PRETTY CONVINCED HE SAW HELEN...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THAT BOY?
......

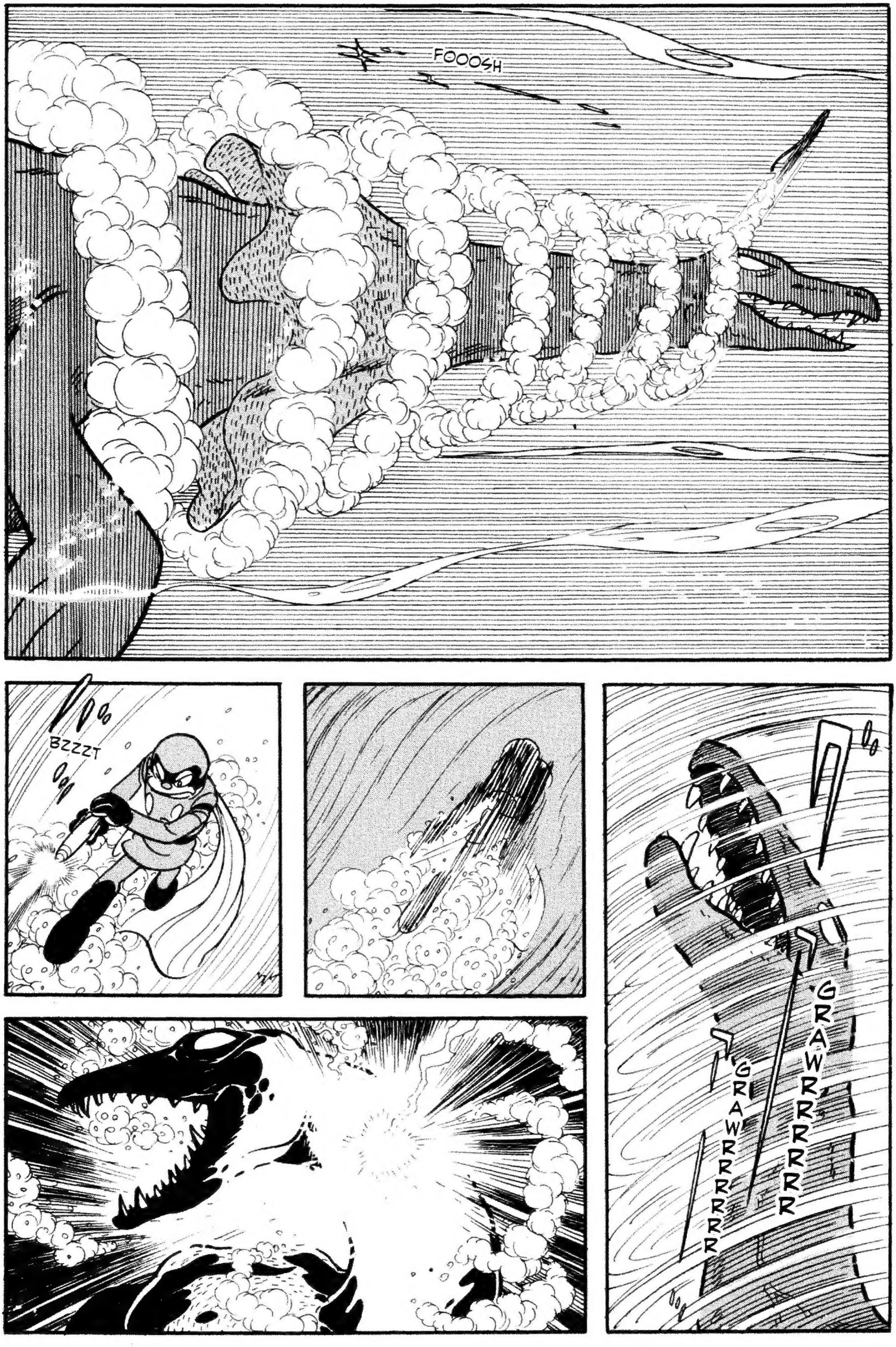

HEY, ISN'T IT YOUR TURN FOR WATCH DUTY?
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M ON MY WAY!
THE WOMAN IS SUSPICIOUS.
BLIMEY! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
RELAX! I'M HERE NOW.
WAIT!
WHAT IS IT?
WE HAD TO DEAL WITH A PROBLEM.

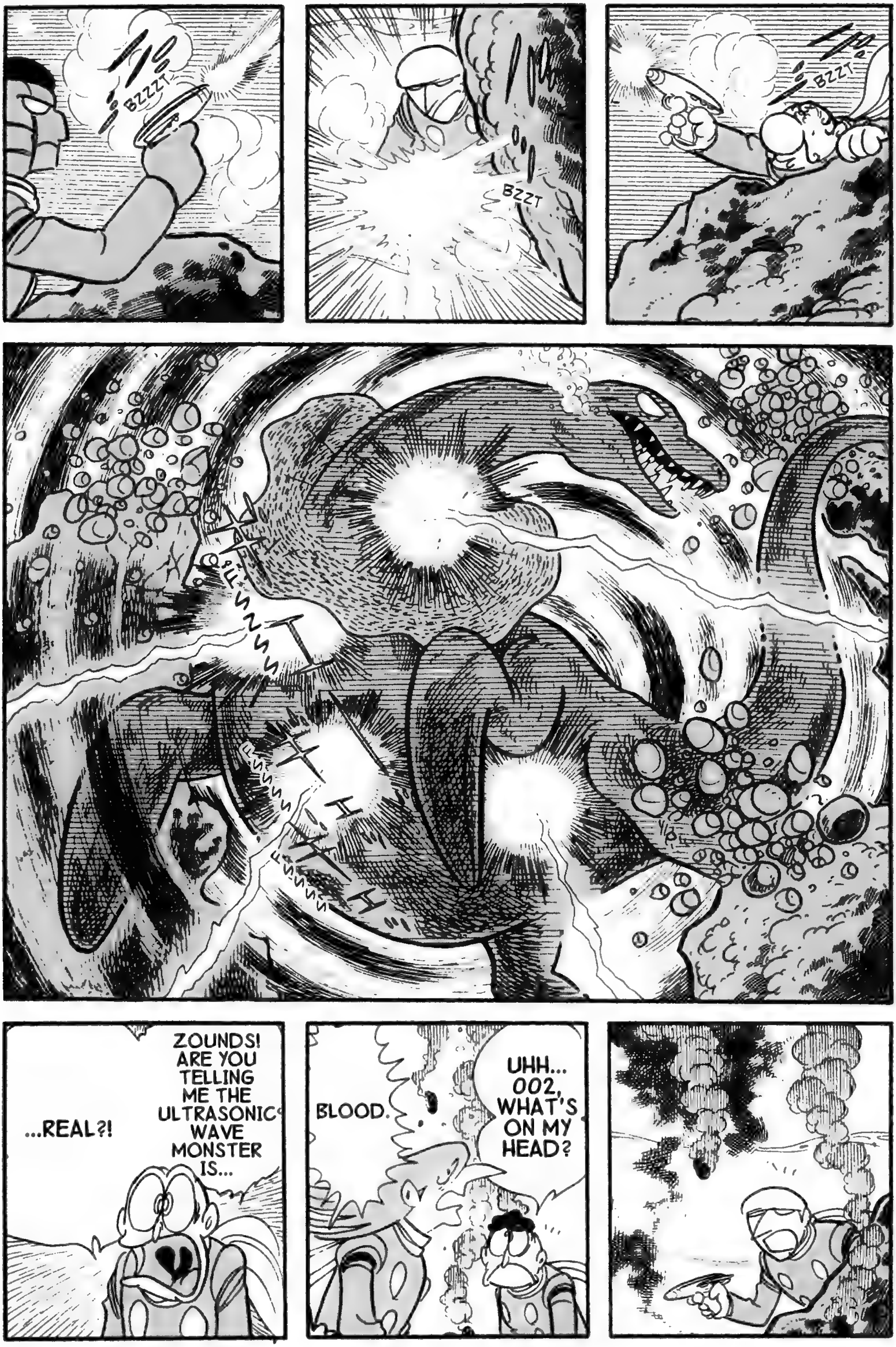

A DINOSAUR!
WAH!

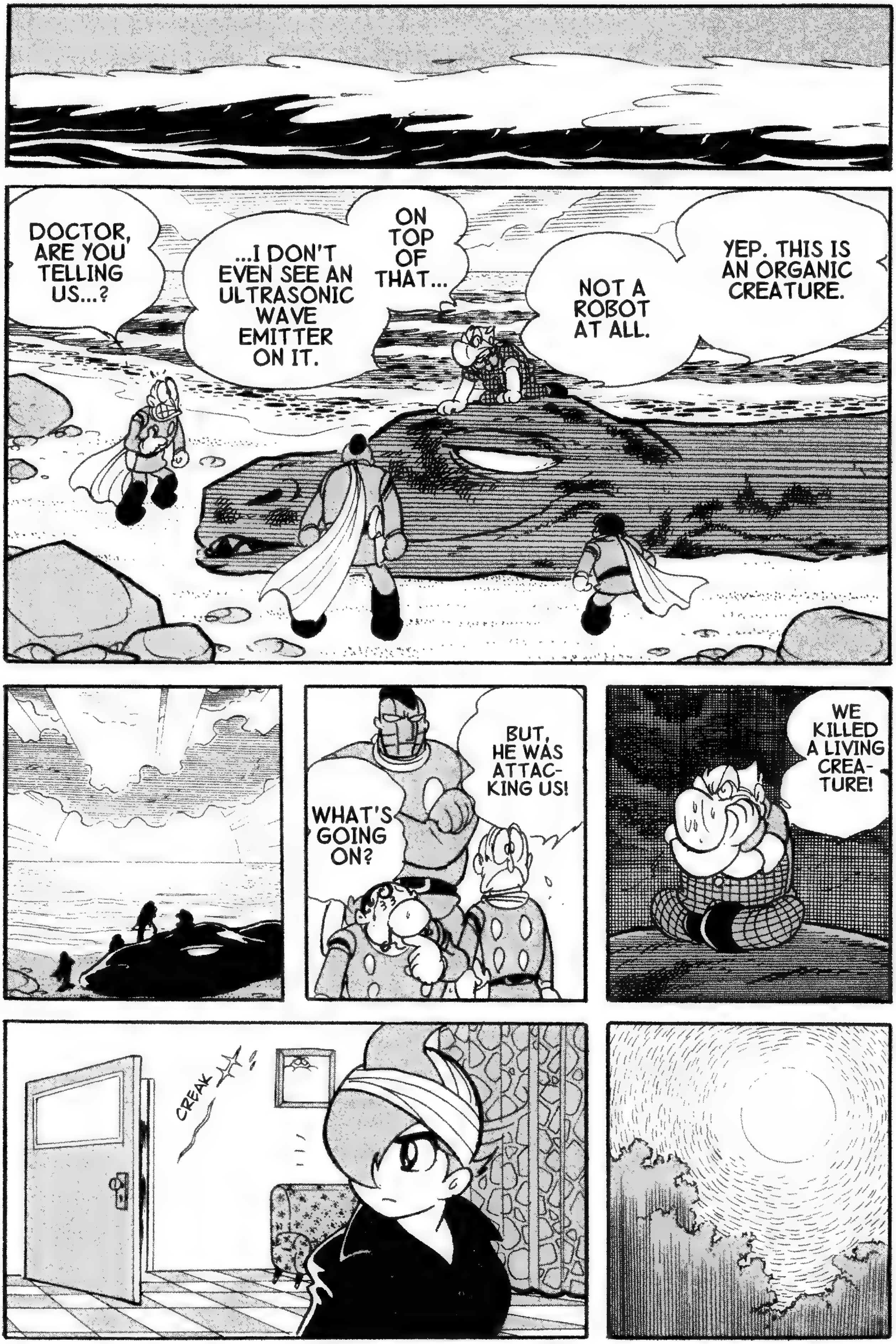

FALL BACK! HE'S MINE!!

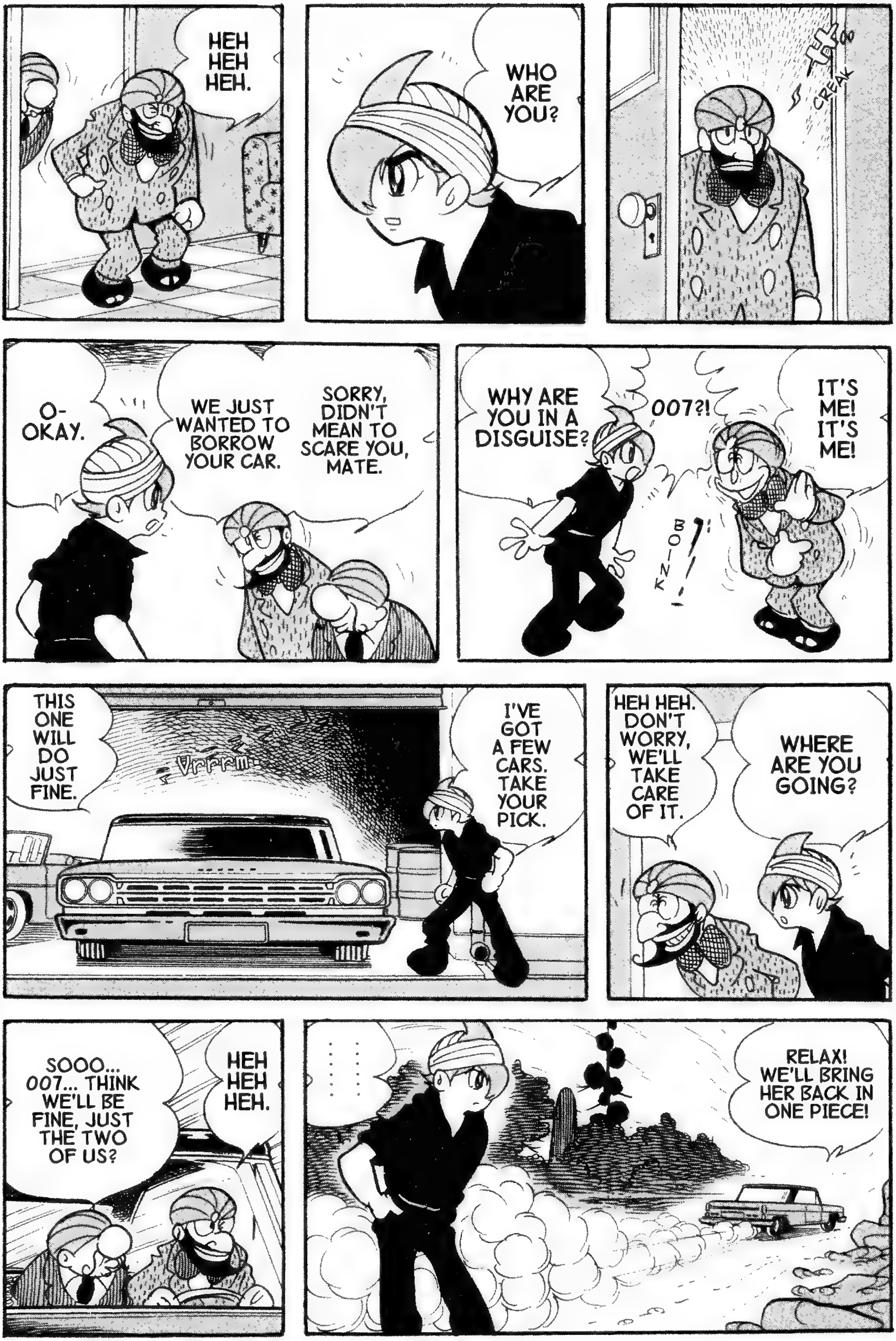

RRRRRRR

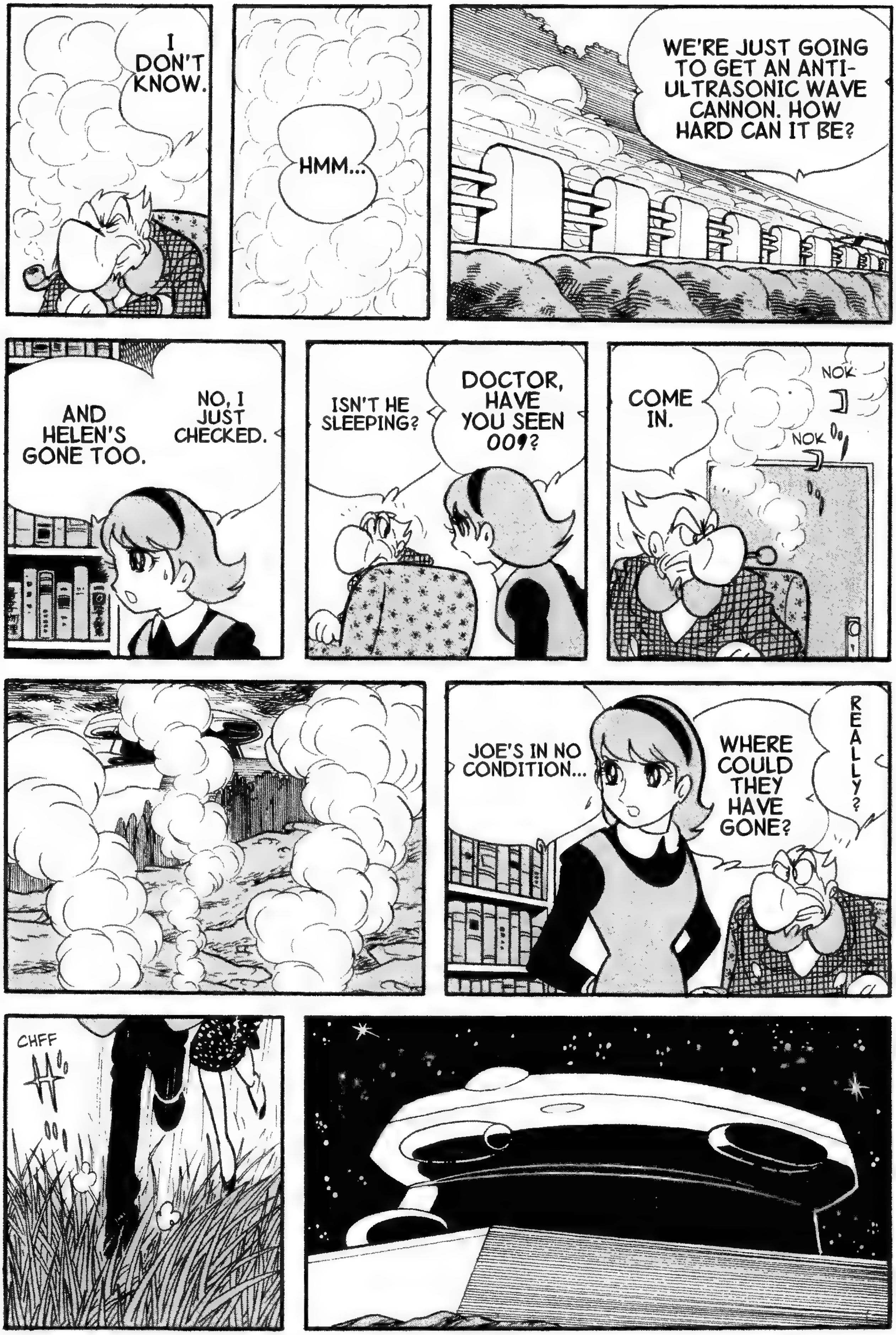

HEH!
WAH!
SPLOOSH
BWOOOOM
BASH
YEOW!
BLOOP
BLOOP
UGH!
FWOOOOO
UNHH.
THWAK
GRAWRRR

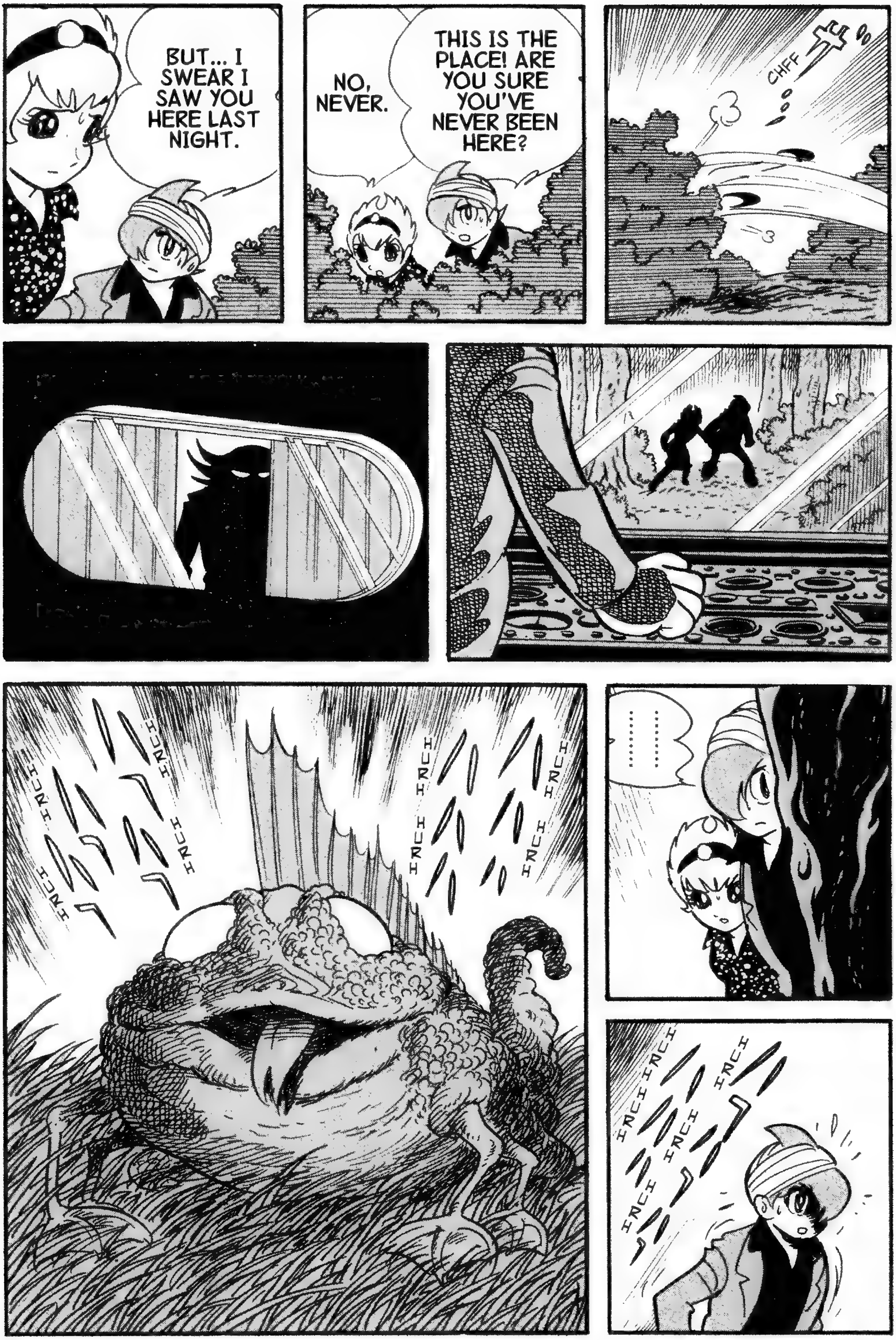

FOOOSH
BZZZT
GRAWRRRRRR
GRAWRRRRRR

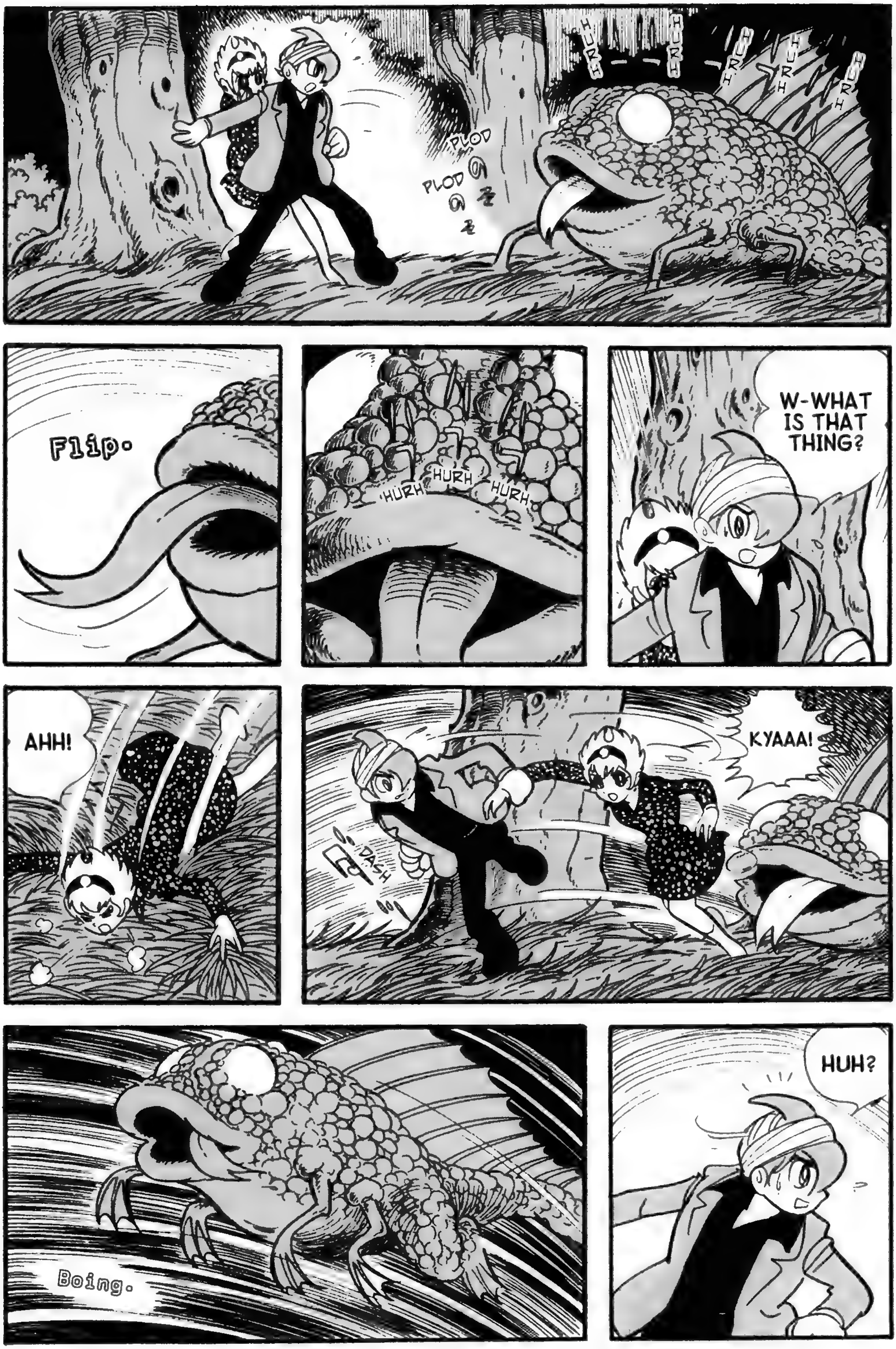

BZZZT
BZZT
BZZZT
ZOUNDS! ARE YOU TELLING ME THE ULTRASONIC WAVE MONSTER IS...
...REAL?!
UHH... 002, WHAT'S ON MY HEAD?
BLOOD.

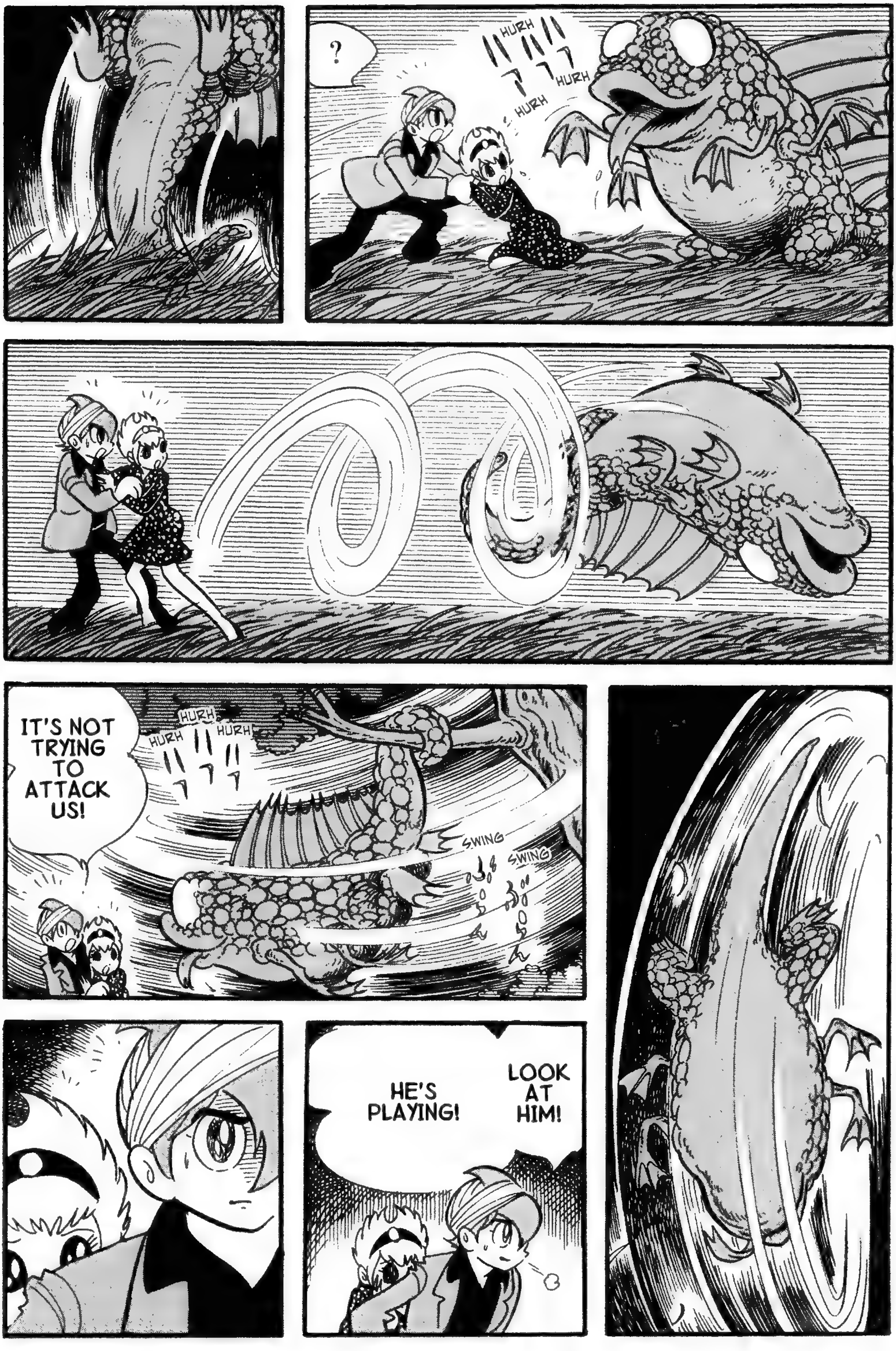

YEP. THIS IS AN ORGANIC CREATURE.
NOT A ROBOT AT ALL.
ON TOP OF THAT...
...I DON'T EVEN SEE AN ULTRASONIC WAVE EMITTER ON IT.
DOCTOR, ARE YOU TELLING US...?
WE KILLED A LIVING CREATURE!
BUT, HE WAS ATTACKING US!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CREAK

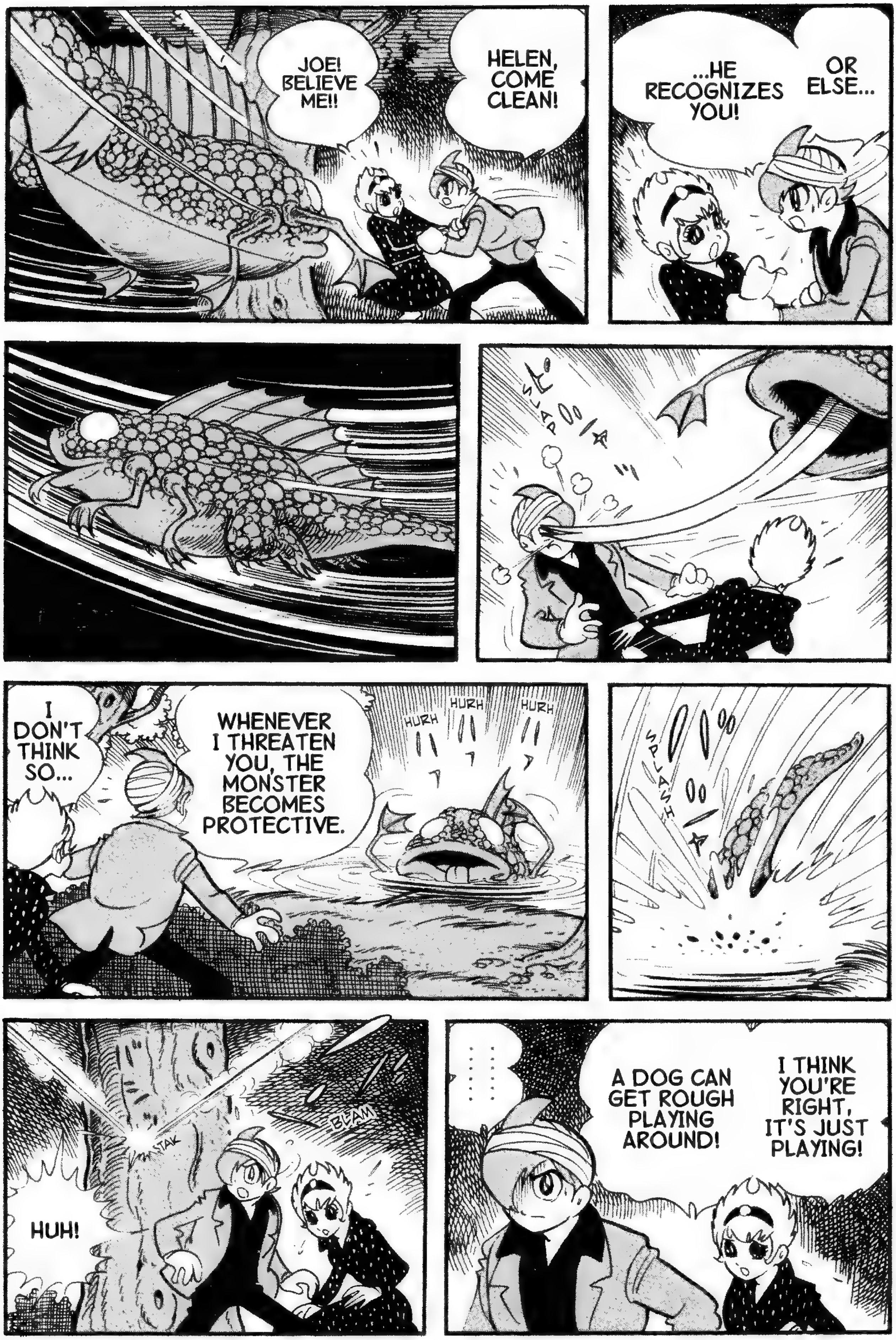

CREAK
WHO ARE YOU?
HEH HEH HEH.
IT'S ME! IT'S ME!
007?!
BOINK
WHY ARE YOU IN A DISGUISE?
SORRY, DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU, MATE.
WE JUST WANTED TO BORROW YOUR CAR.
O-OKAY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEH HEH. DON'T WORRY, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
I'VE GOT A FEW CARS. TAKE YOUR PICK.
Vrrrm
THIS ONE WILL DO JUST FINE.
RELAX! WE'LL BRING HER BACK IN ONE PIECE!
......
HEH HEH HEH.
SOOO... 007... THINK WE'LL BE FINE, JUST THE TWO OF US?

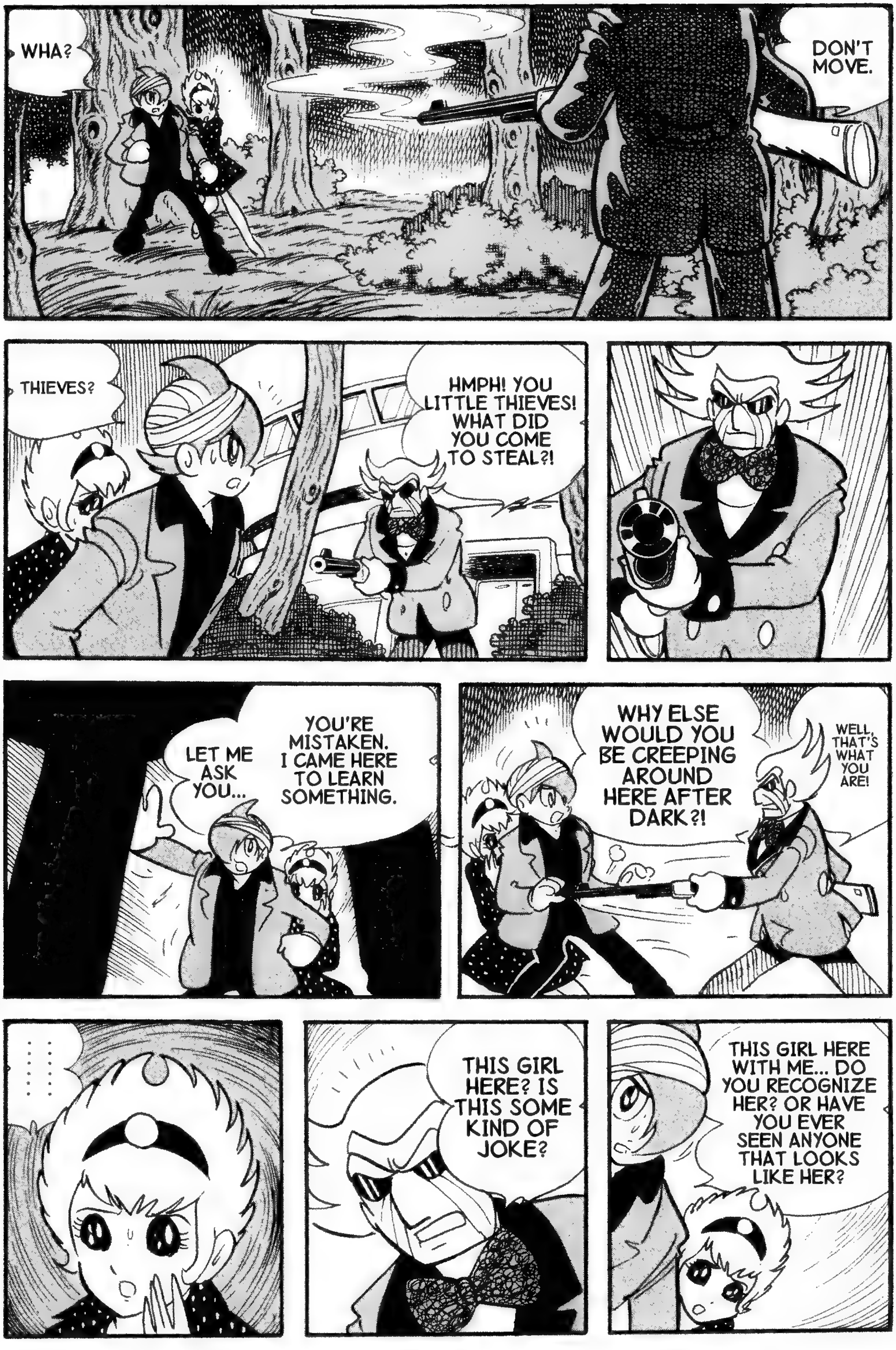

WE'RE JUST GOING TO GET AN ANTI-ULTRASONIC WAVE CANNON. HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW.
NOK
NOK
COME IN.
DOCTOR, HAVE YOU SEEN 009?
ISN'T HE SLEEPING?
NO, I JUST CHECKED.
AND HELEN'S GONE TOO.
REALLY?
WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?
JOE'S IN NO CONDITION...
CHFF

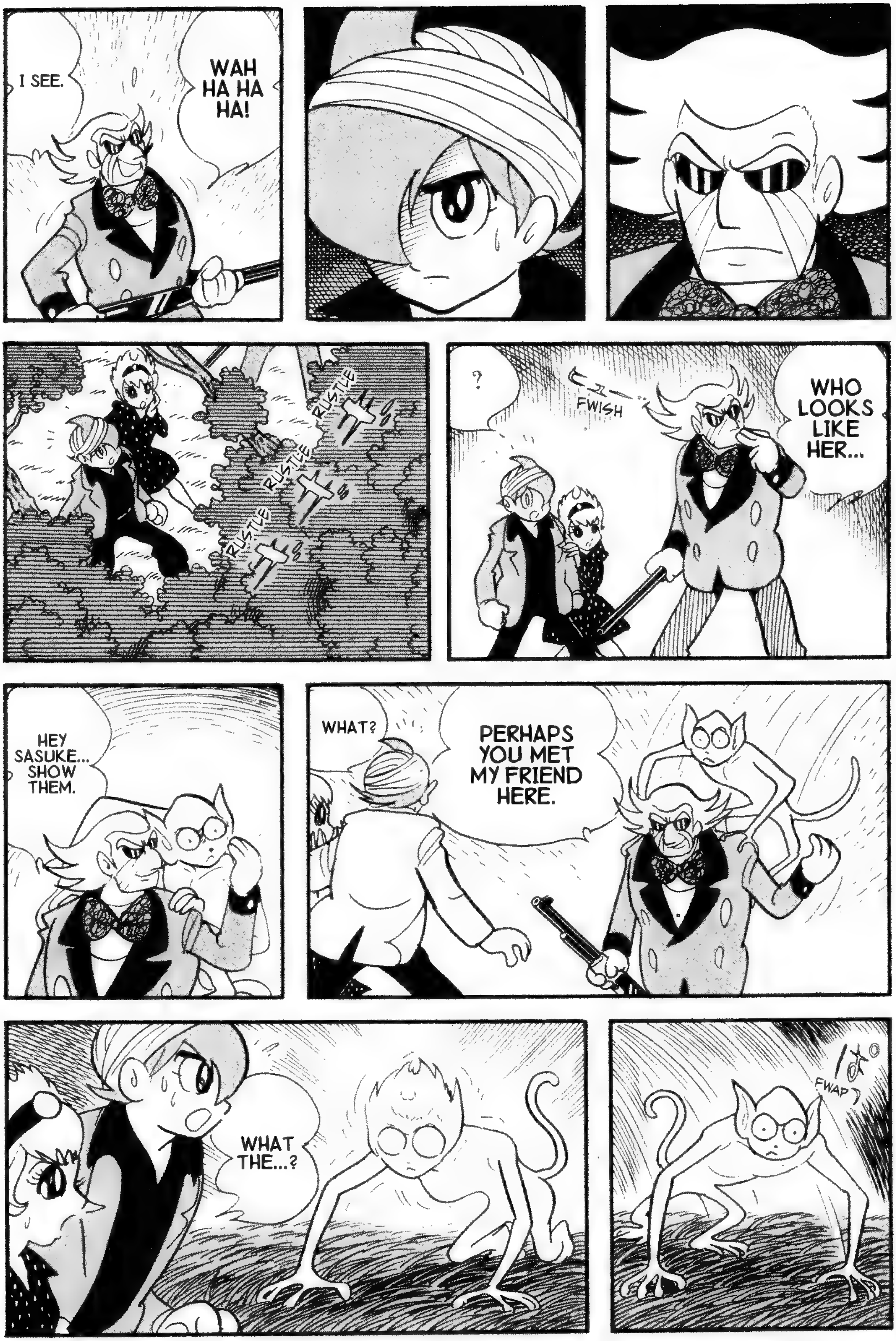

BUT... I SWEAR I SAW YOU HERE LAST NIGHT.
NO, NEVER.
THIS IS THE PLACE! ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HERE?
CHFF
HURH HURH HURH HURH HURH HURH HURH
......
......
IRCH IRCH IRCH IRCH IRCH IRCH

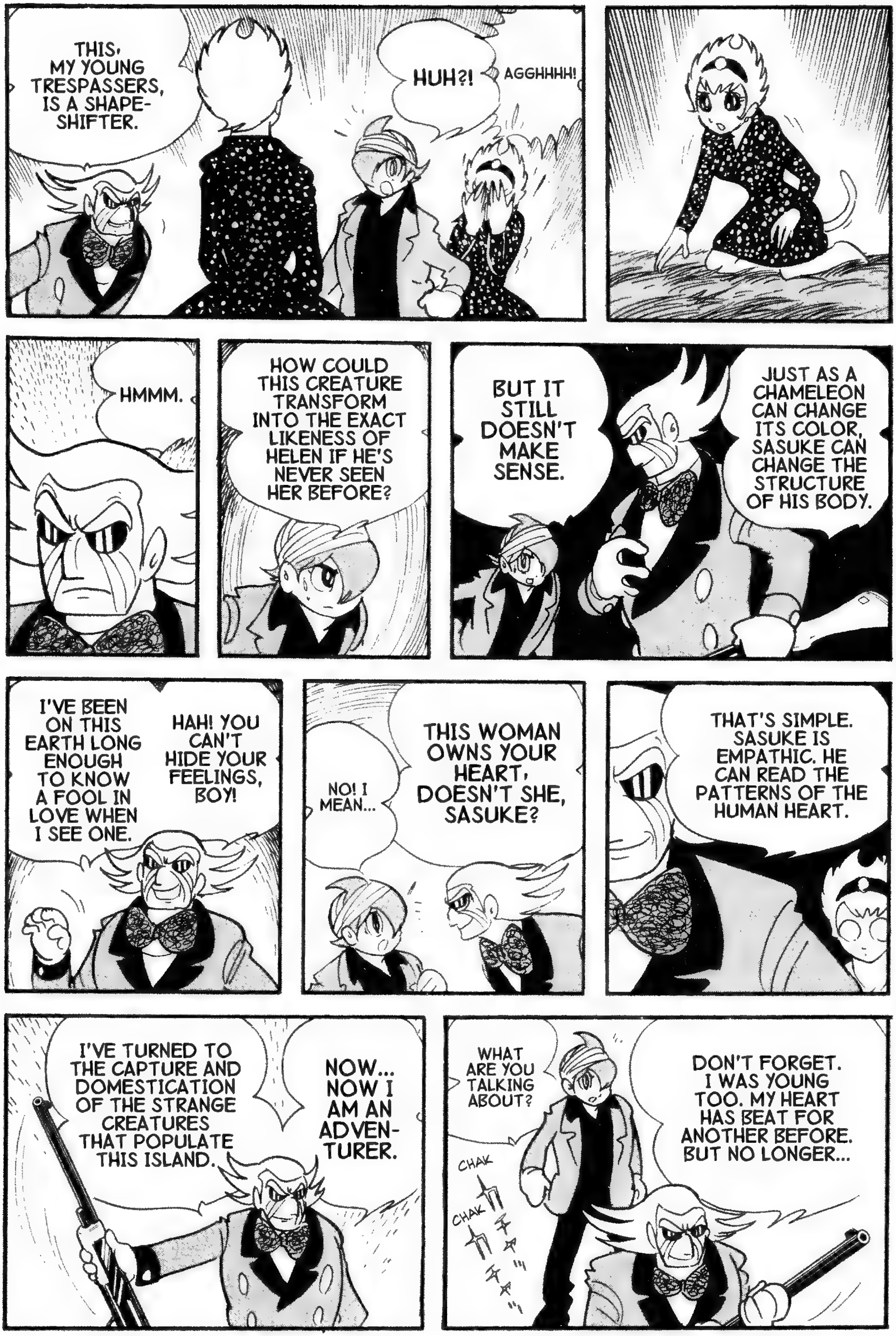

HURH
HURH
HURH
HURH
HURH
PLOD
PLOD
Flip.
HURH
HURH
HURH
W-WHAT IS THAT THING?
AHH!
DASH
KYAAA!
Boing.
HUH?

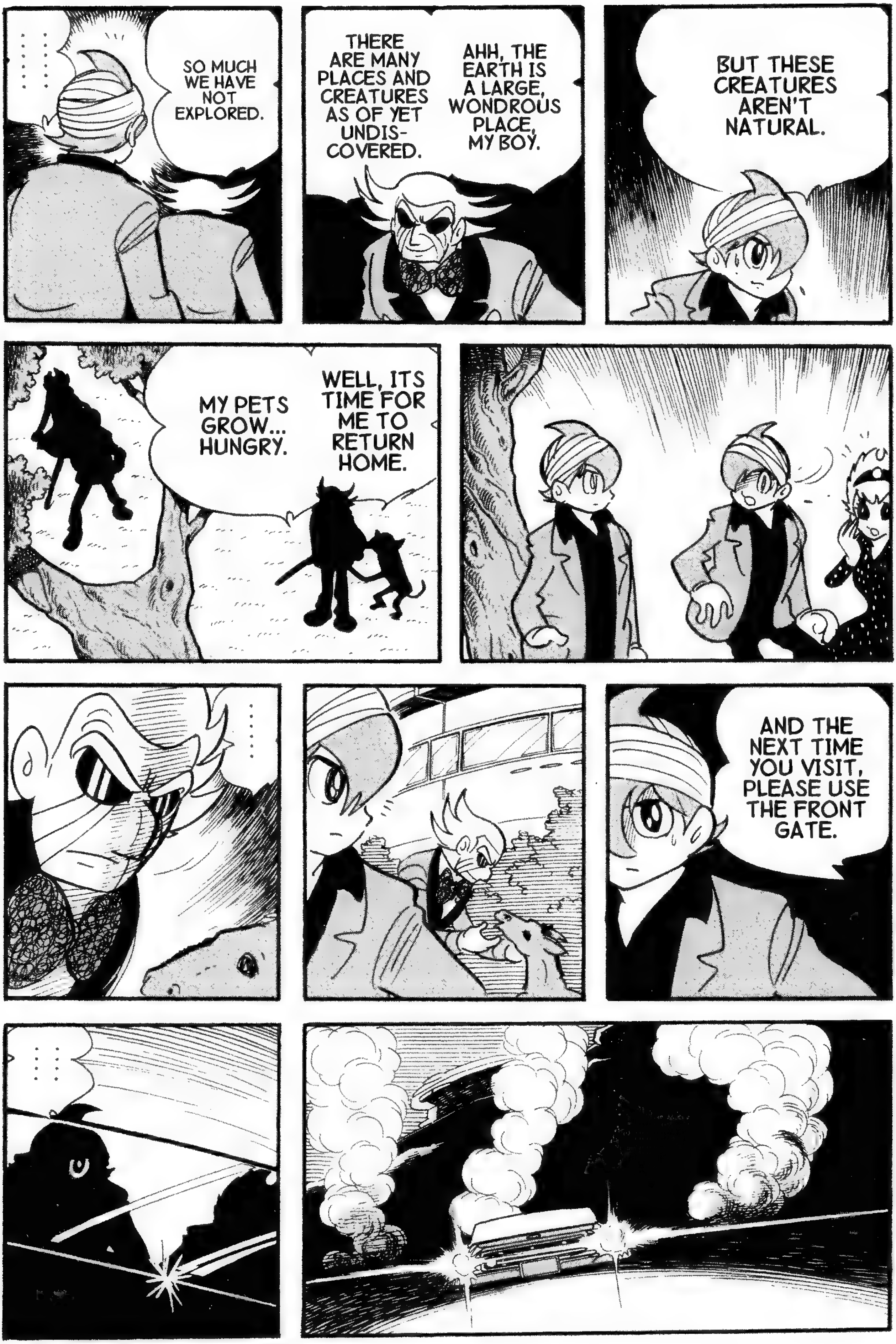

?
HURH HURH HURH
IT'S NOT TRYING TO ATTACK US!
HURH HURH HURH
SWING SWING
LOOK AT HIM!
HE'S PLAYING!

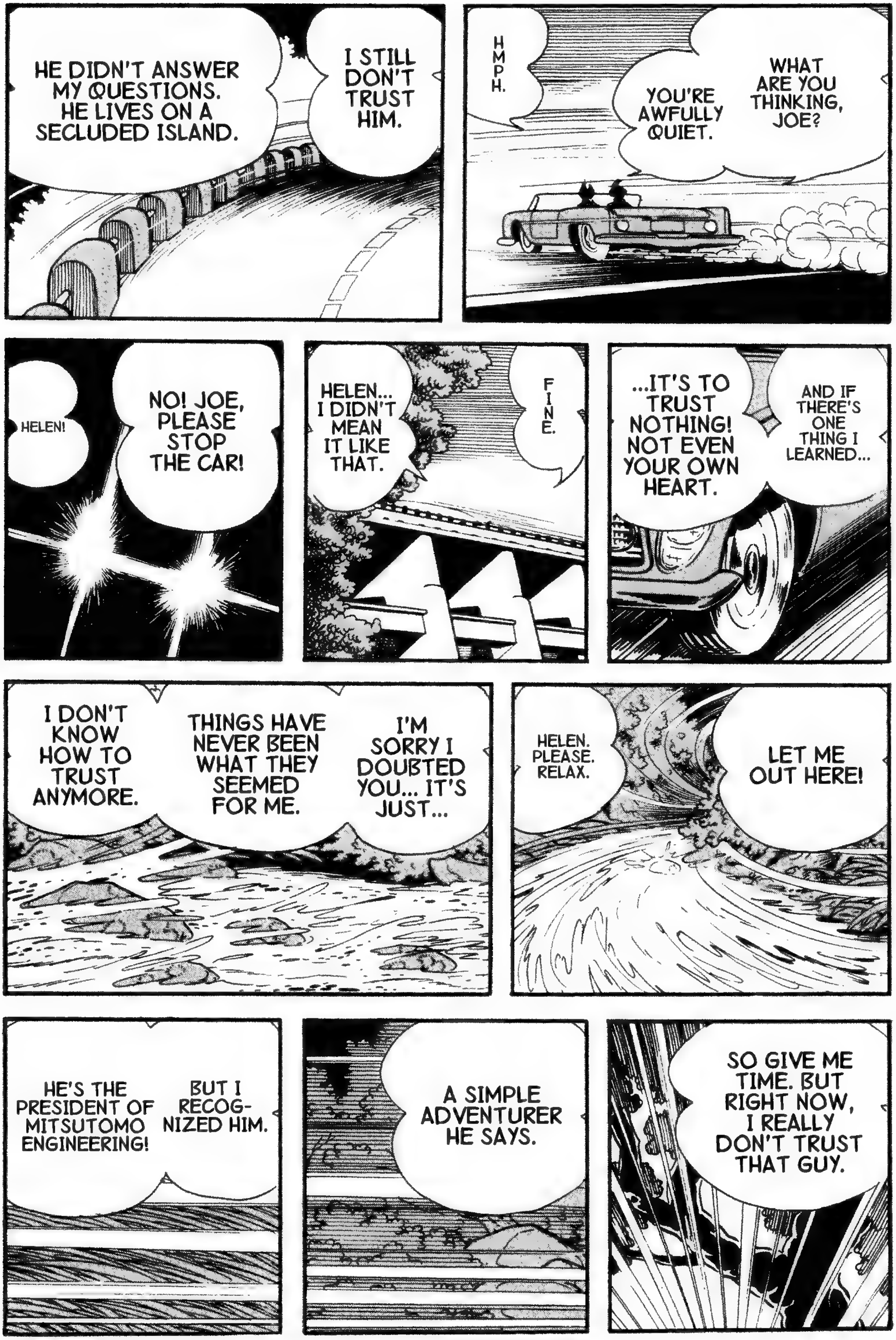

HELEN, COME CLEAN!
JOE! BELIEVE ME!!
OR ELSE...
...HE RECOGNIZES YOU!
SLAP
WHENEVER I THREATEN YOU, THE MONSTER BECOMES PROTECTIVE.
I DON'T THINK SO...
HURH
HURH
HURH
SPLASH
BLAM
STAK
HUH!
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S JUST PLAYING!
A DOG CAN GET ROUGH PLAYING AROUND!
......

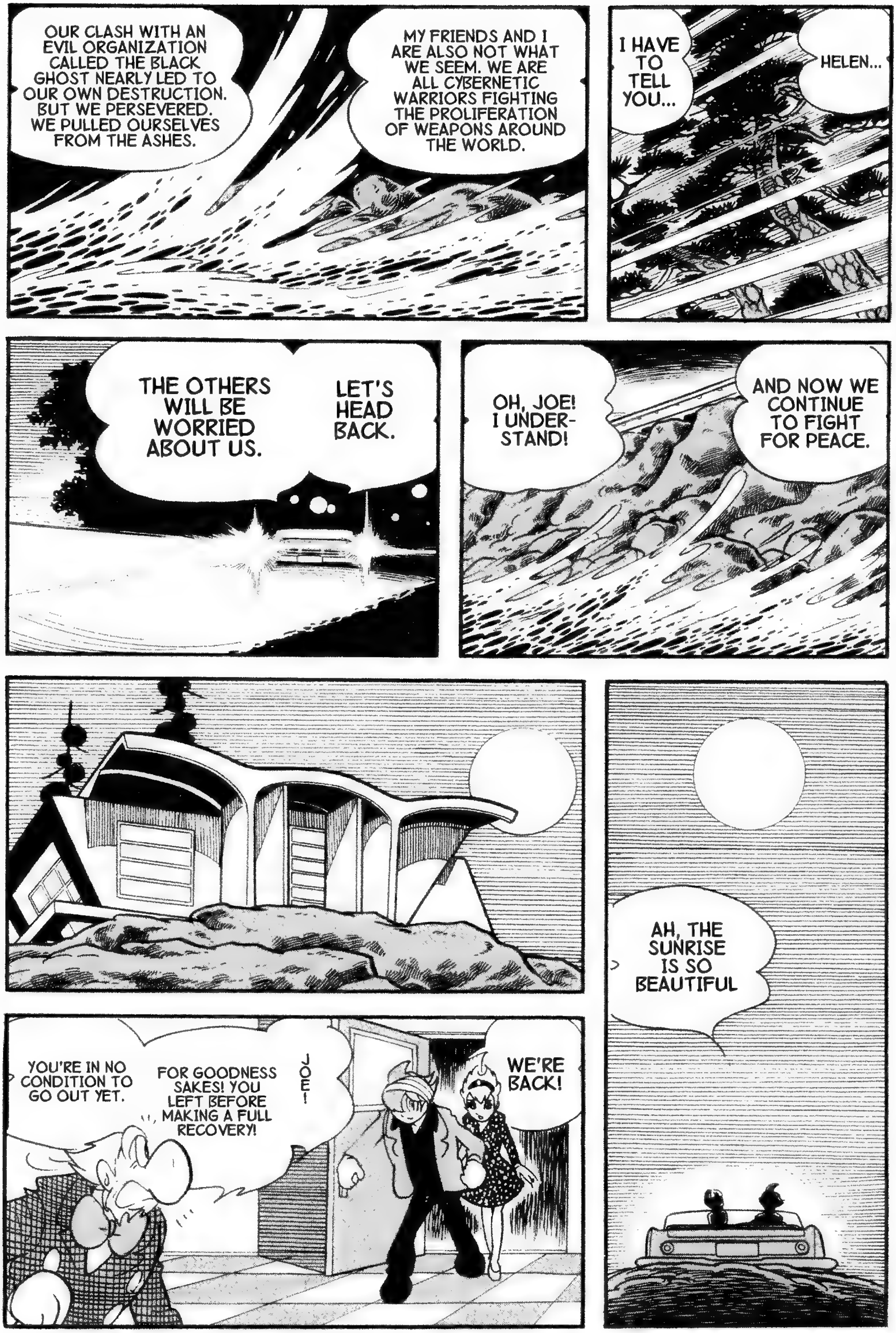

DON'T MOVE.
WHA?
HMPH! YOU LITTLE THIEVES! WHAT DID YOU COME TO STEAL?!
THIEVES?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE CREEPING AROUND HERE AFTER DARK?!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN. I CAME HERE TO LEARN SOMETHING.
LET ME ASK YOU...
THIS GIRL HERE WITH ME... DO YOU RECOGNIZE HER? OR HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYONE THAT LOOKS LIKE HER?
THIS GIRL HERE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
......

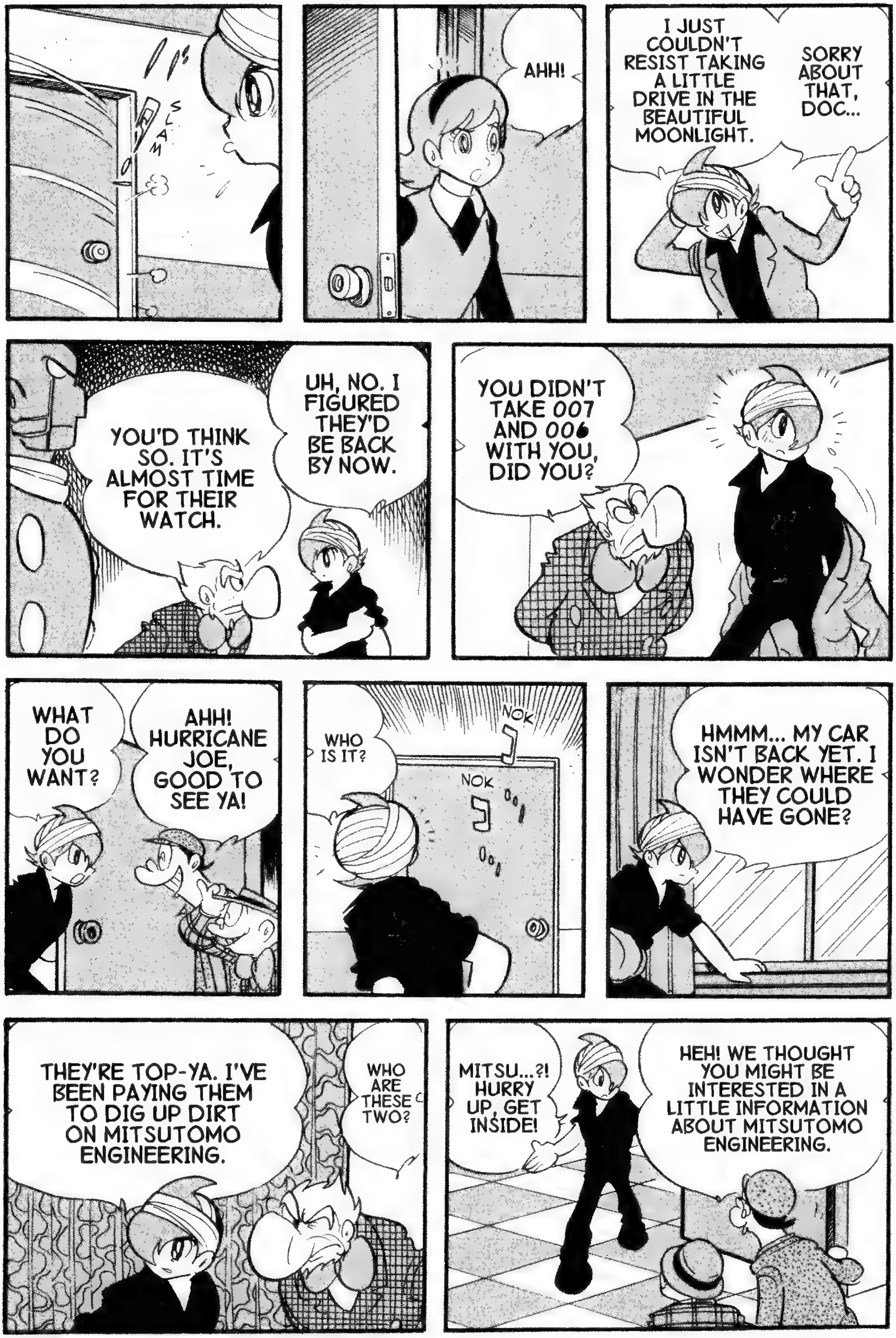

WAH HA HA HA!
I SEE.
WHO LOOKS LIKE HER...
FWISH
?
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
PERHAPS YOU MET MY FRIEND HERE.
WHAT?
HEY SASUKE... SHOW THEM.
FWAP
WHAT THE...?

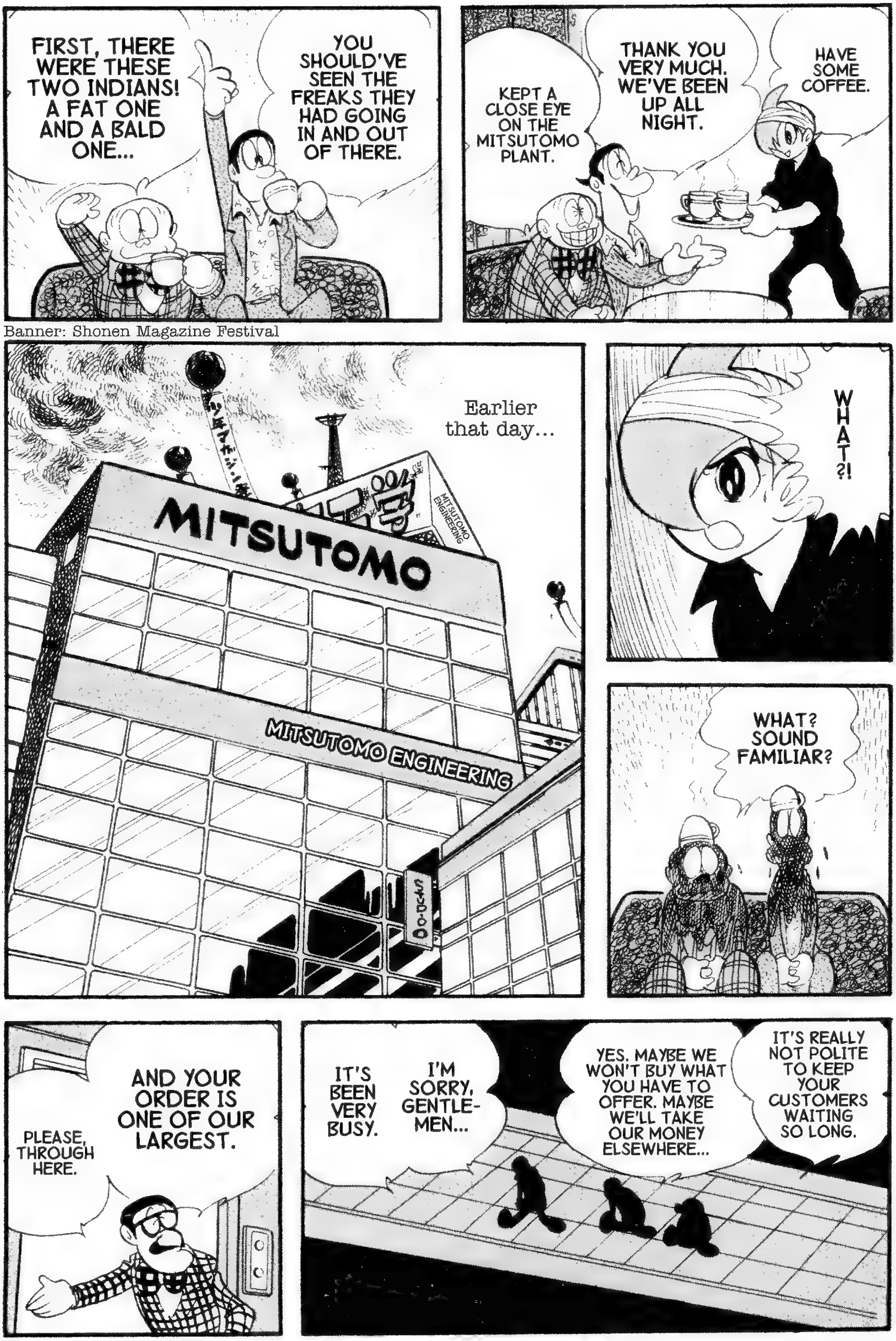

AGGHHHH!
HUH?!
THIS, MY YOUNG TRESPASSERS, IS A SHAPE-SHIFTER.
JUST AS A CHAMELEON CAN CHANGE ITS COLOR, SASUKE CAN CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF HIS BODY.
BUT IT STILL DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
HOW COULD THIS CREATURE TRANSFORM INTO THE EXACT LIKENESS OF HELEN IF HE'S NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE?
HMMM.
THAT'S SIMPLE. SASUKE IS EMPATHIC. HE CAN READ THE PATTERNS OF THE HUMAN HEART.
THIS WOMAN OWNS YOUR HEART, DOESN'T SHE, SASUKE?
NO! I MEAN...
HAH! YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR FEELINGS, BOY!
I'VE BEEN ON THIS EARTH LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW A FOOL IN LOVE WHEN I SEE ONE.
DON'T FORGET. I WAS YOUNG TOO. MY HEART HAS BEAT FOR ANOTHER BEFORE. BUT NO LONGER...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHAK
CHAK
NOW... NOW I AM AN ADVENTURER.
I'VE TURNED TO THE CAPTURE AND DOMESTICATION OF THE STRANGE CREATURES THAT POPULATE THIS ISLAND.


......
SO MUCH WE HAVE NOT EXPLORED.
AHH, THE EARTH IS A LARGE, WONDROUS PLACE, MY BOY.
THERE ARE MANY PLACES AND CREATURES AS OF YET UNDISCOVERED.
BUT THESE CREATURES AREN'T NATURAL.
WELL, ITS TIME FOR ME TO RETURN HOME.
MY PETS GROW... HUNGRY.
......
AND THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT, PLEASE USE THE FRONT GATE.
......

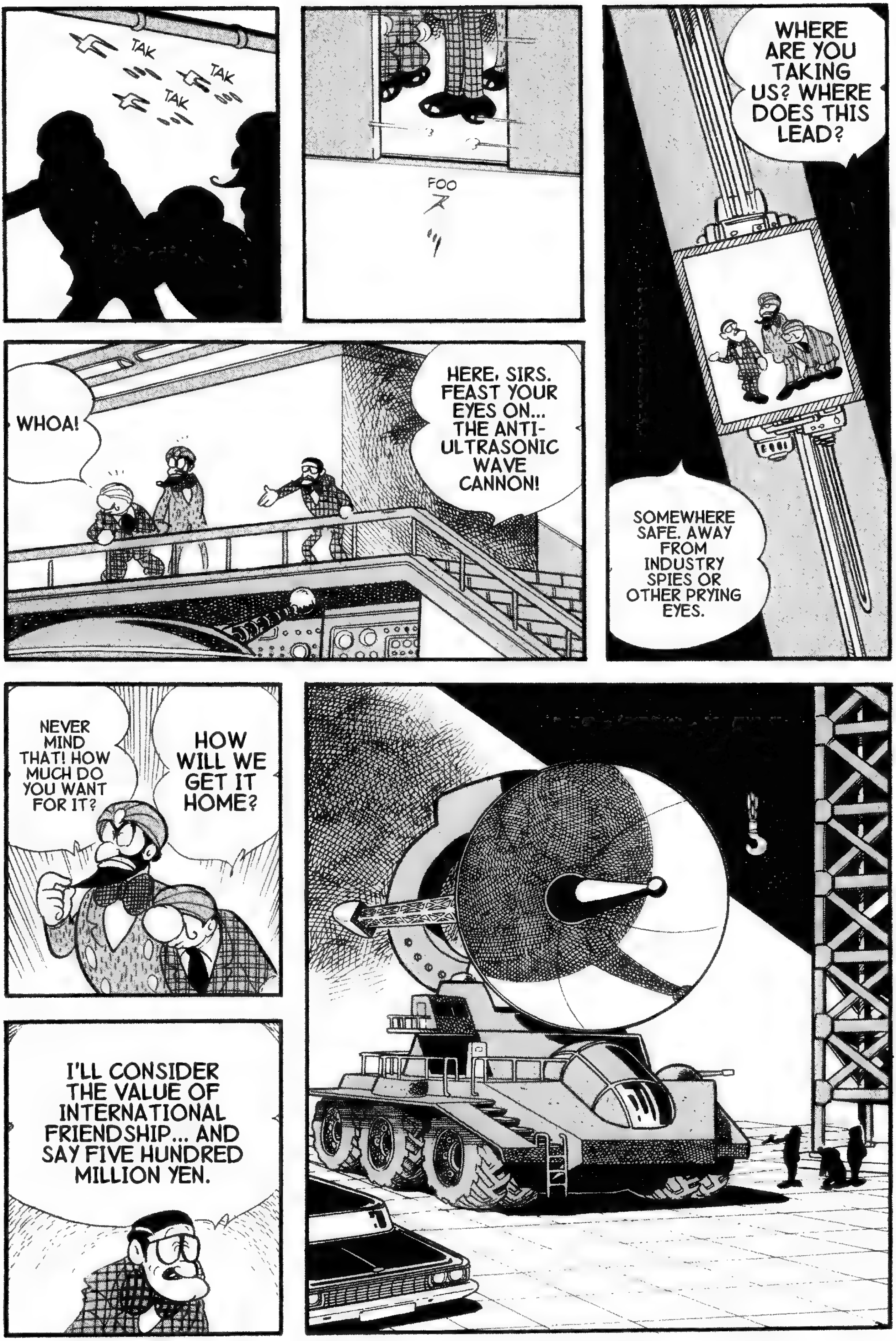

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, JOE?
YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET.
HMPH.
I STILL DON'T TRUST HIM.
HE DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTIONS. HE LIVES ON A SECLUDED ISLAND.
AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED...
...IT'S TO TRUST NOTHING! NOT EVEN YOUR OWN HEART.
FINE.
HELEN... I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
NO! JOE, PLEASE STOP THE CAR!
HELEN!
LET ME OUT HERE!
HELEN. PLEASE. RELAX.
I'M SORRY I DOUBTED YOU... IT'S JUST...
THINGS HAVE NEVER BEEN WHAT THEY SEEMED FOR ME.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TRUST ANYMORE.
SO GIVE ME TIME. BUT RIGHT NOW, I REALLY DON'T TRUST THAT GUY.
A SIMPLE ADVENTURER HE SAYS.
BUT I RECOGNIZED HIM.
HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING!

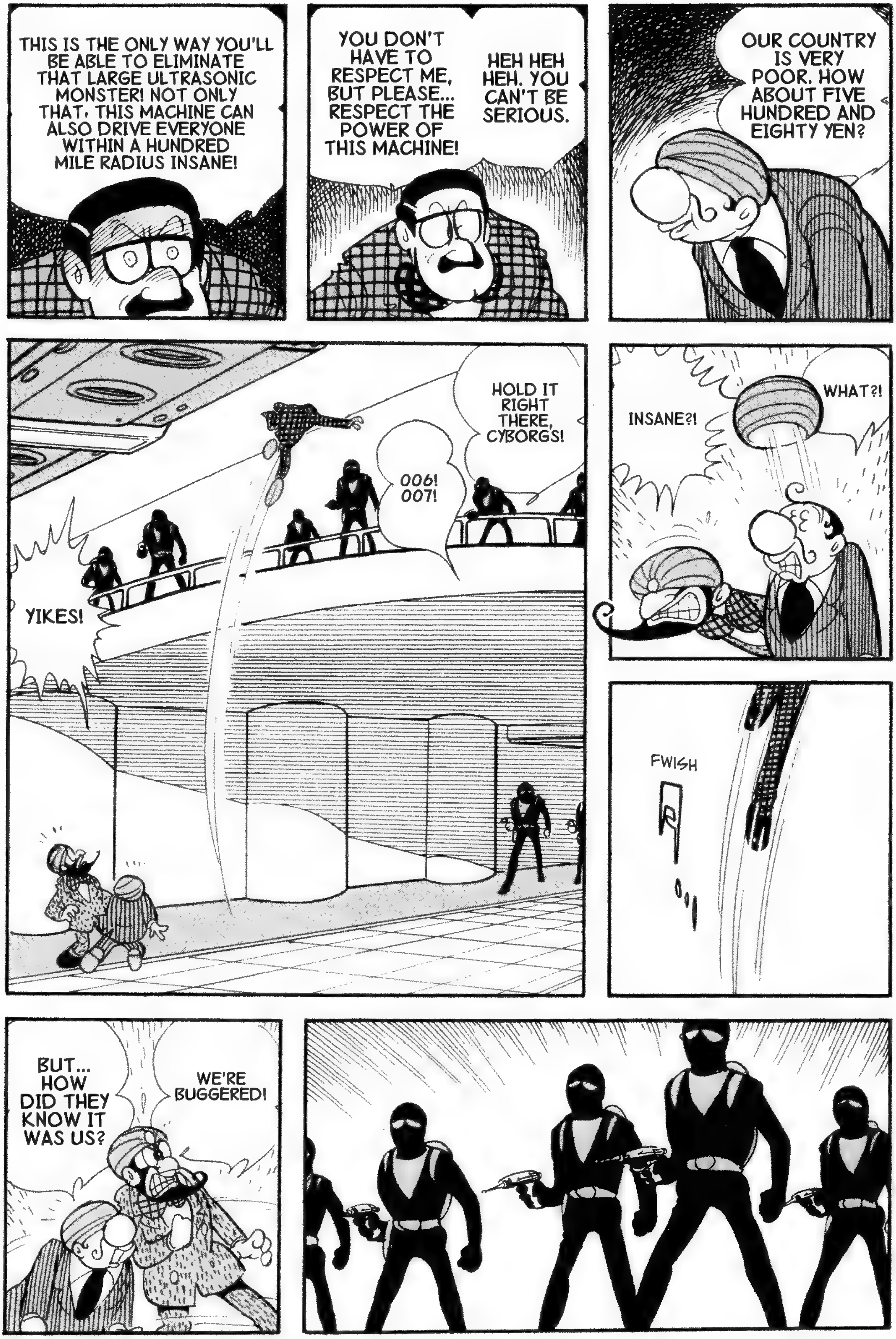

HELEN...
I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
MY FRIENDS AND I ARE ALSO NOT WHAT WE SEEM. WE ARE ALL CYBERNETIC WARRIORS FIGHTING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS AROUND THE WORLD.
OUR CLASH WITH AN EVIL ORGANIZATION CALLED THE BLACK GHOST NEARLY LED TO OUR OWN DESTRUCTION. BUT WE PERSEVERED. WE PULLED OURSELVES FROM THE ASHES.
AND NOW WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR PEACE.
OH, JOE! I UNDERSTAND!
LET'S HEAD BACK.
THE OTHERS WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT US.
AH, THE SUNRISE IS SO BEAUTIFUL
WE'RE BACK!
JOE!
FOR GOODNESS SAKES! YOU LEFT BEFORE MAKING A FULL RECOVERY!
YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO GO OUT YET.

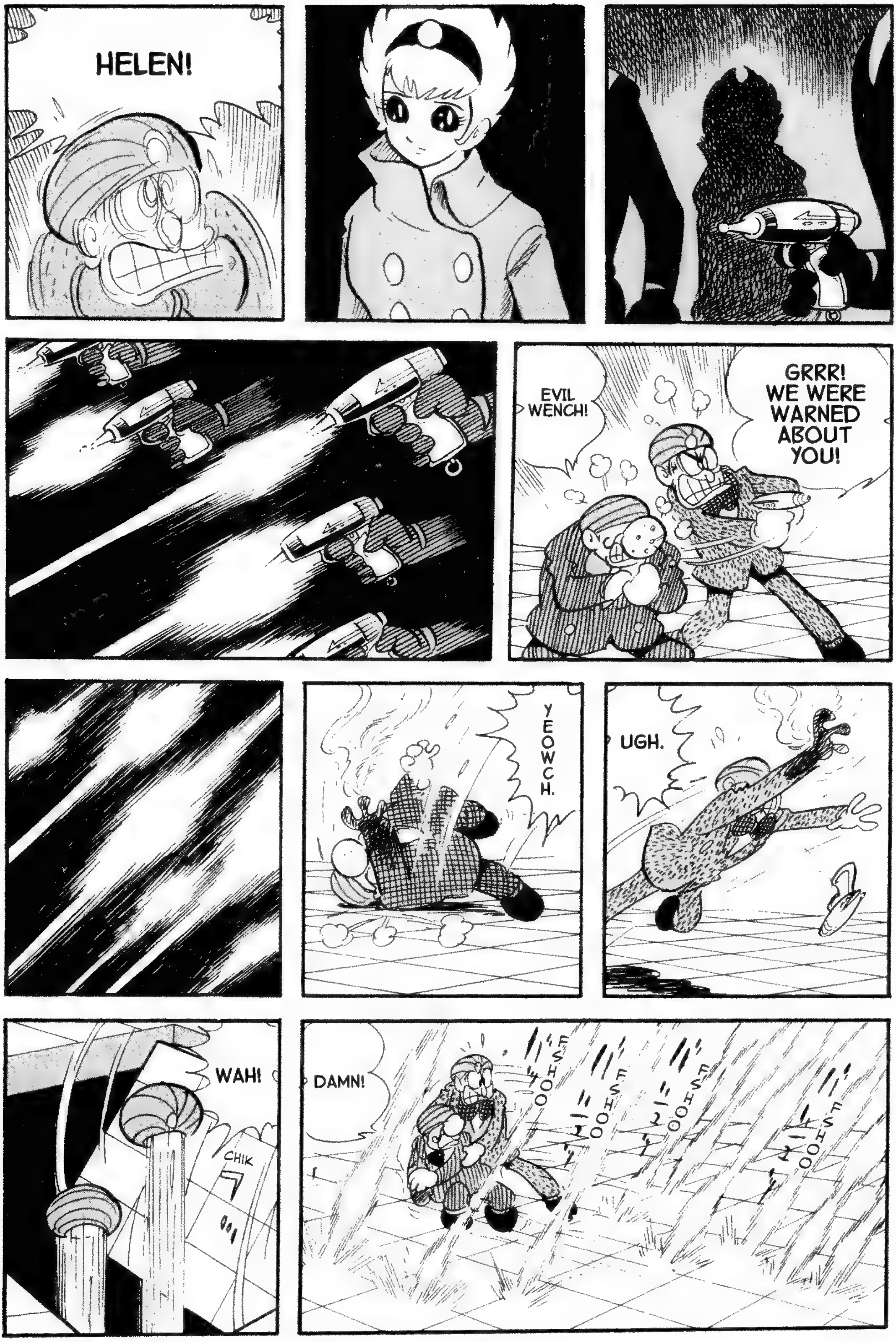

SORRY ABOUT THAT, DOC...
I JUST COULDN'T RESIST TAKING A LITTLE DRIVE IN THE BEAUTIFUL MOONLIGHT.
AHH!
SLAM
YOU DIDN'T TAKE 007 AND 006 WITH YOU, DID YOU?
UH, NO. I FIGURED THEY'D BE BACK BY NOW.
YOU'D THINK SO. IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THEIR WATCH.
HMMM... MY CAR ISN'T BACK YET. I WONDER WHERE THEY COULD HAVE GONE?
NOK
NOK
WHO IS IT?
AHH! HURRICANE JOE, GOOD TO SEE YA!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HEH! WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING.
MITSU...?! HURRY UP, GET INSIDE!
WHO ARE THESE TWO?
THEY'RE TOP-YA. I'VE BEEN PAYING THEM TO DIG UP DIRT ON MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING.

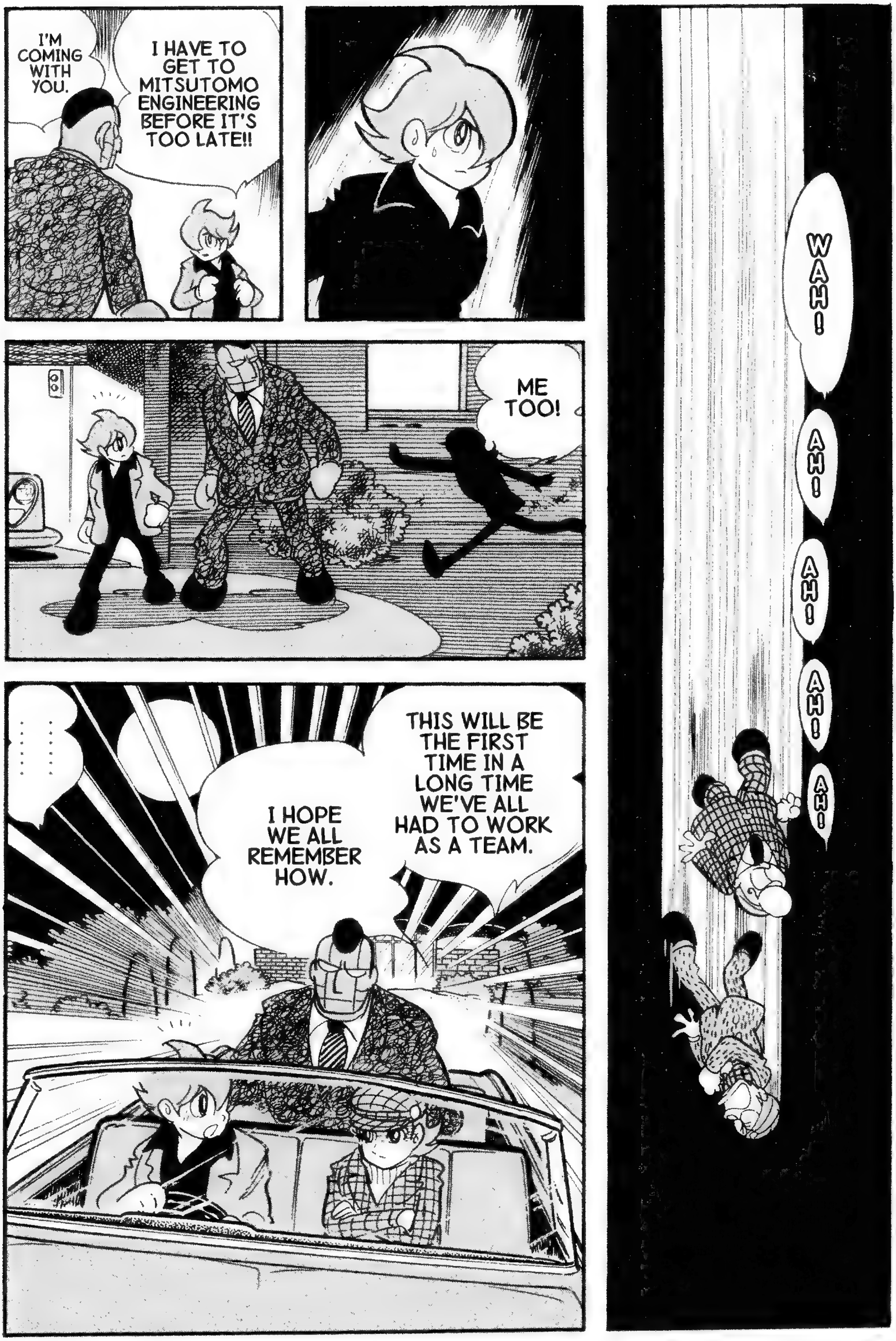

HAVE SOME COFFEE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT.
KEPT A CLOSE EYE ON THE MITSUTOMO PLANT.
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE FREAKS THEY HAD GOING IN AND OUT OF THERE.
FIRST, THERE WERE THESE TWO INDIANS! A FAT ONE AND A BALD ONE...
WHAT?!
WHAT? SOUND FAMILIAR?
Earlier that day...
MITSUTOMO
MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING
MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING
IT'S REALLY NOT POLITE TO KEEP YOUR CUSTOMERS WAITING SO LONG.
YES. MAYBE WE WON'T BUY WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER. MAYBE WE'LL TAKE OUR MONEY ELSEWHERE...
I'M SORRY, GENTLEMEN...
IT'S BEEN VERY BUSY.
AND YOUR ORDER IS ONE OF OUR LARGEST.
PLEASE, THROUGH HERE.

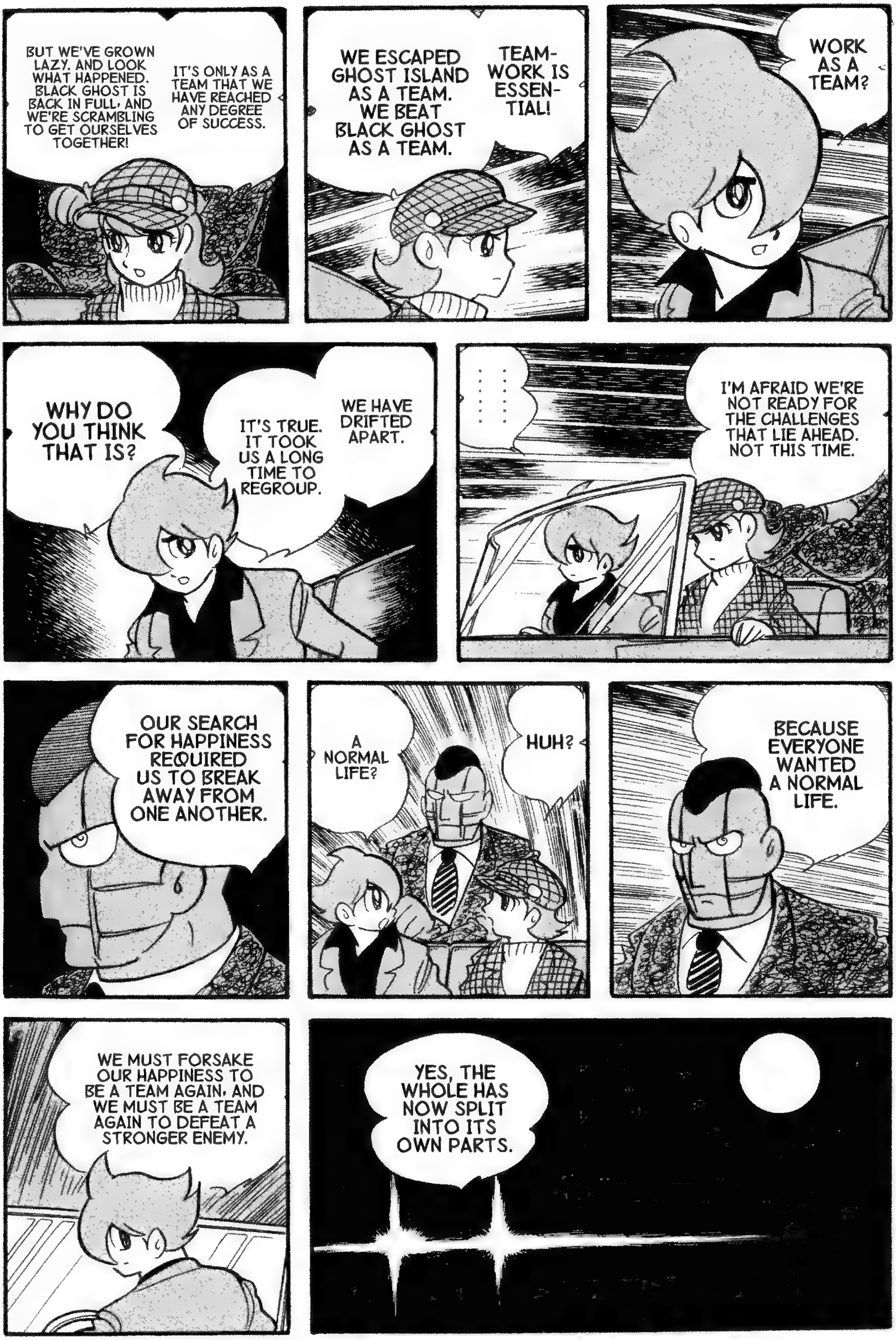
Banner: Shonen Magazine Festival


TAK
TAK
TAK
FOO
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US? WHERE DOES THIS LEAD?
SOMEWHERE SAFE. AWAY FROM INDUSTRY SPIES OR OTHER PRYING EYES.
HERE, SIRS. FEAST YOUR EYES ON... THE ANTI-ULTRASONIC WAVE CANNON!
WHOA!
HOW WILL WE GET IT HOME?
NEVER MIND THAT! HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR IT?
I'LL CONSIDER THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP... AND SAY FIVE HUNDRED MILLION YEN.

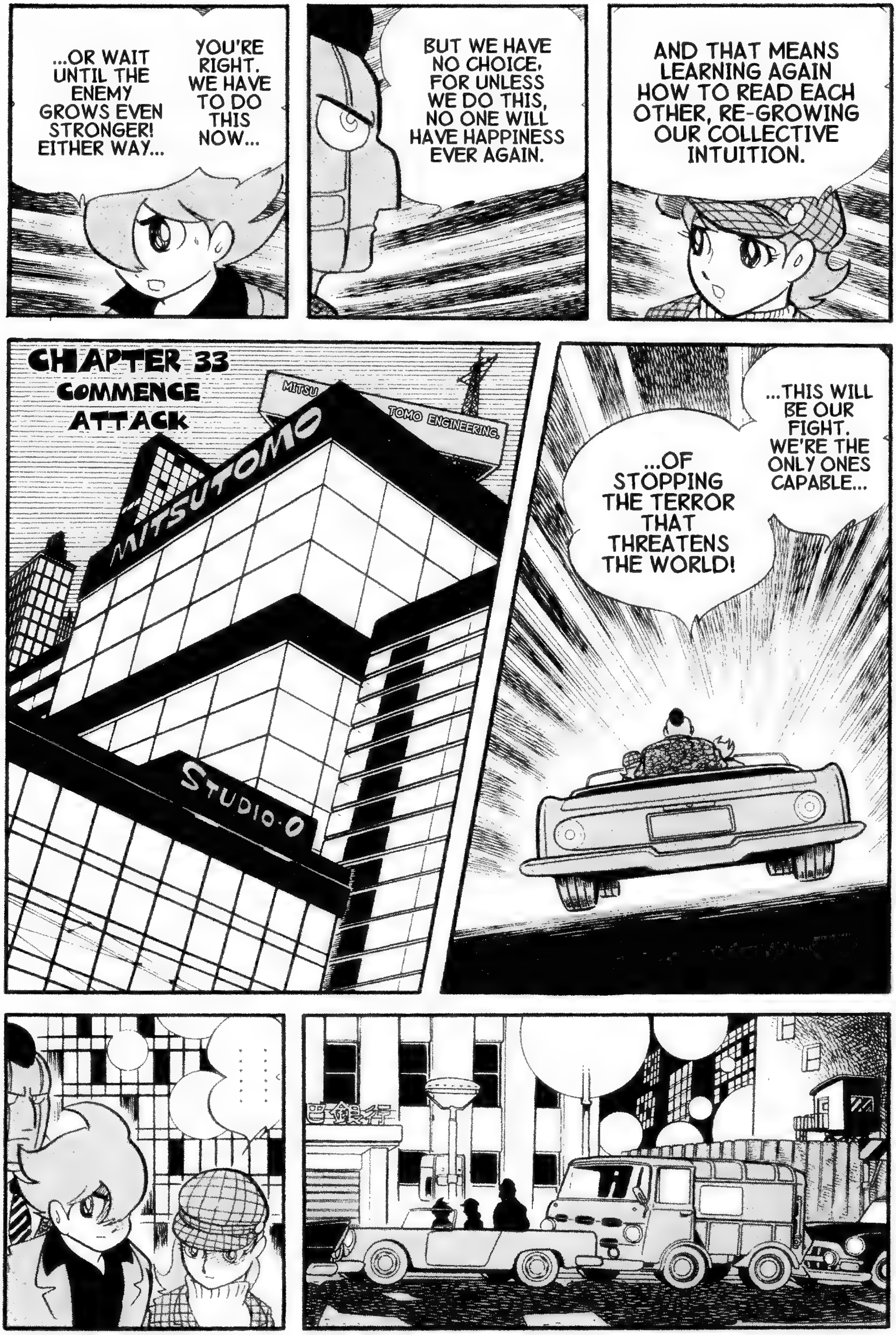

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE THAT LARGE ULTRASONIC MONSTER! NOT ONLY THAT, THIS MACHINE CAN ALSO DRIVE EVERYONE WITHIN A HUNDRED MILE RADIUS INSANE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RESPECT ME, BUT PLEASE... RESPECT THE POWER OF THIS MACHINE!
HEH HEH HEH. YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
OUR COUNTRY IS VERY POOR. HOW ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY YEN?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, CYBORGS!
006! 007!
YIKES!
INSANE?!
WHAT?!
FWISH
BUT... HOW DID THEY KNOW IT WAS US?
WE'RE BUGGERED!

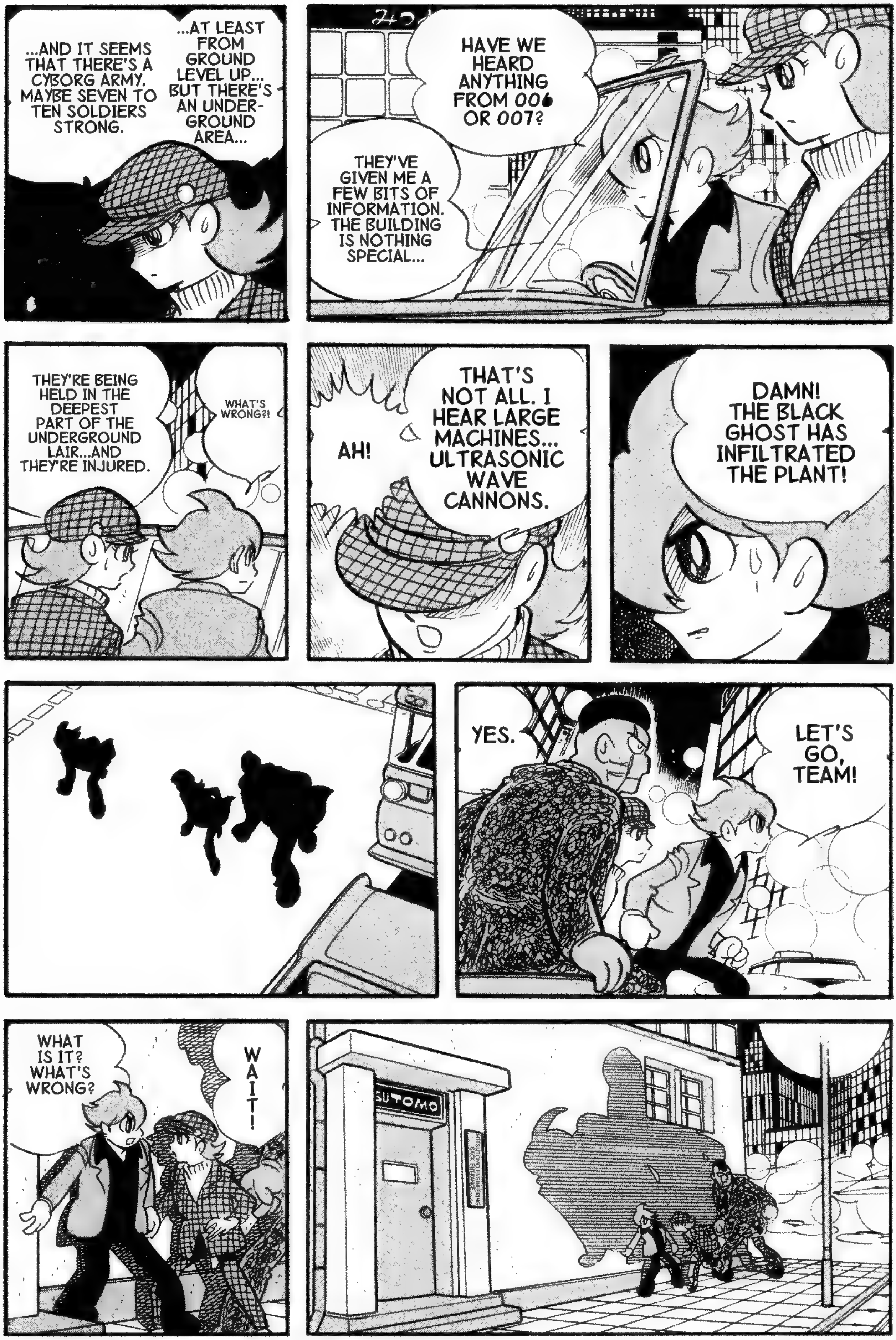

HELEN!
EVIL WENCH!
GRRR! WE WERE WARNED ABOUT YOU!
YEOWCH.
UGH.
WAH!
CHIK
DAMN!
FSHOO
FSHOO
FSHOO
FSHOO

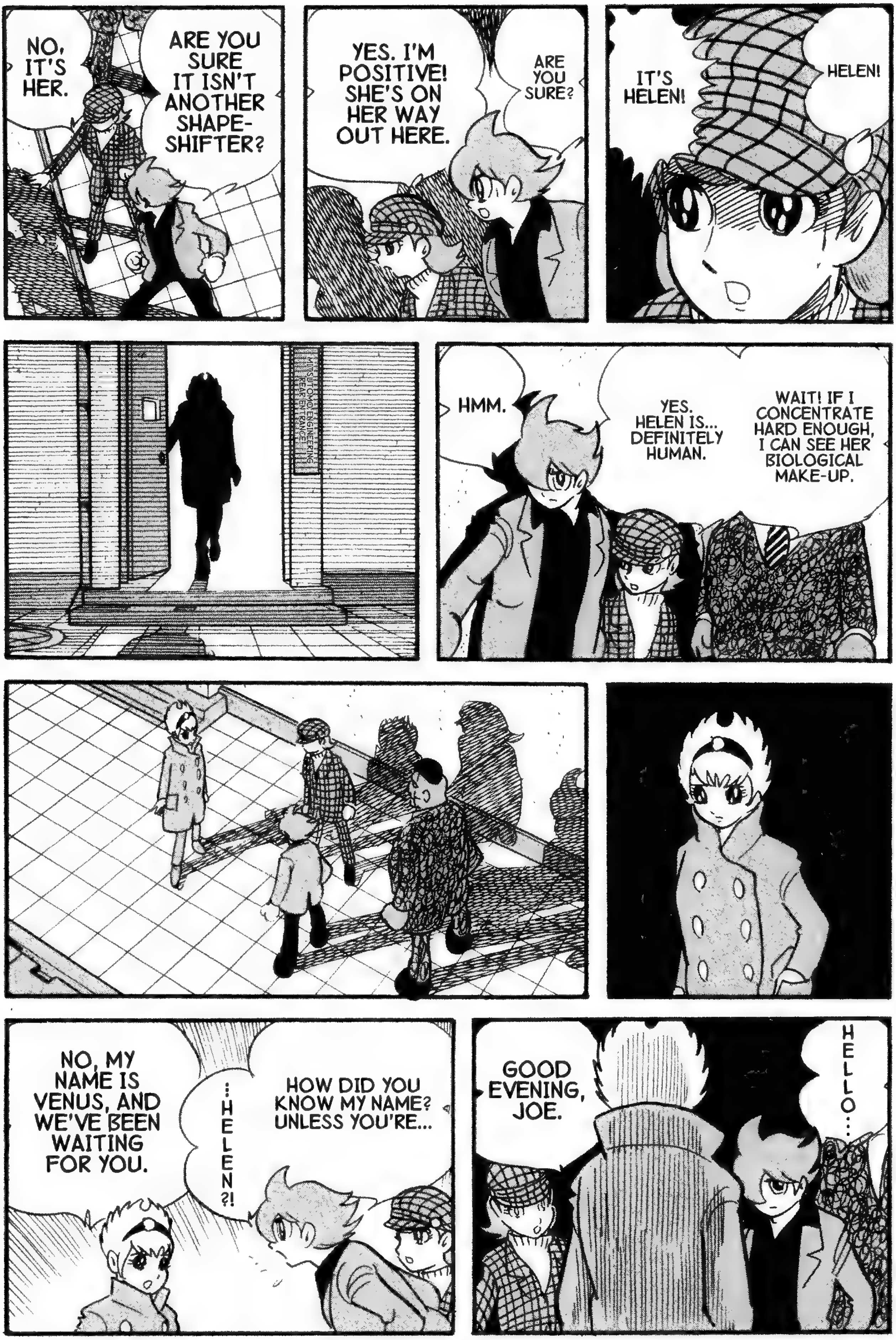

I HAVE TO GET TO MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!
I'M COMING WITH YOU.
ME TOO!
THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME WE'VE ALL HAD TO WORK AS A TEAM.
I HOPE WE ALL REMEMBER HOW.
......
WAH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!

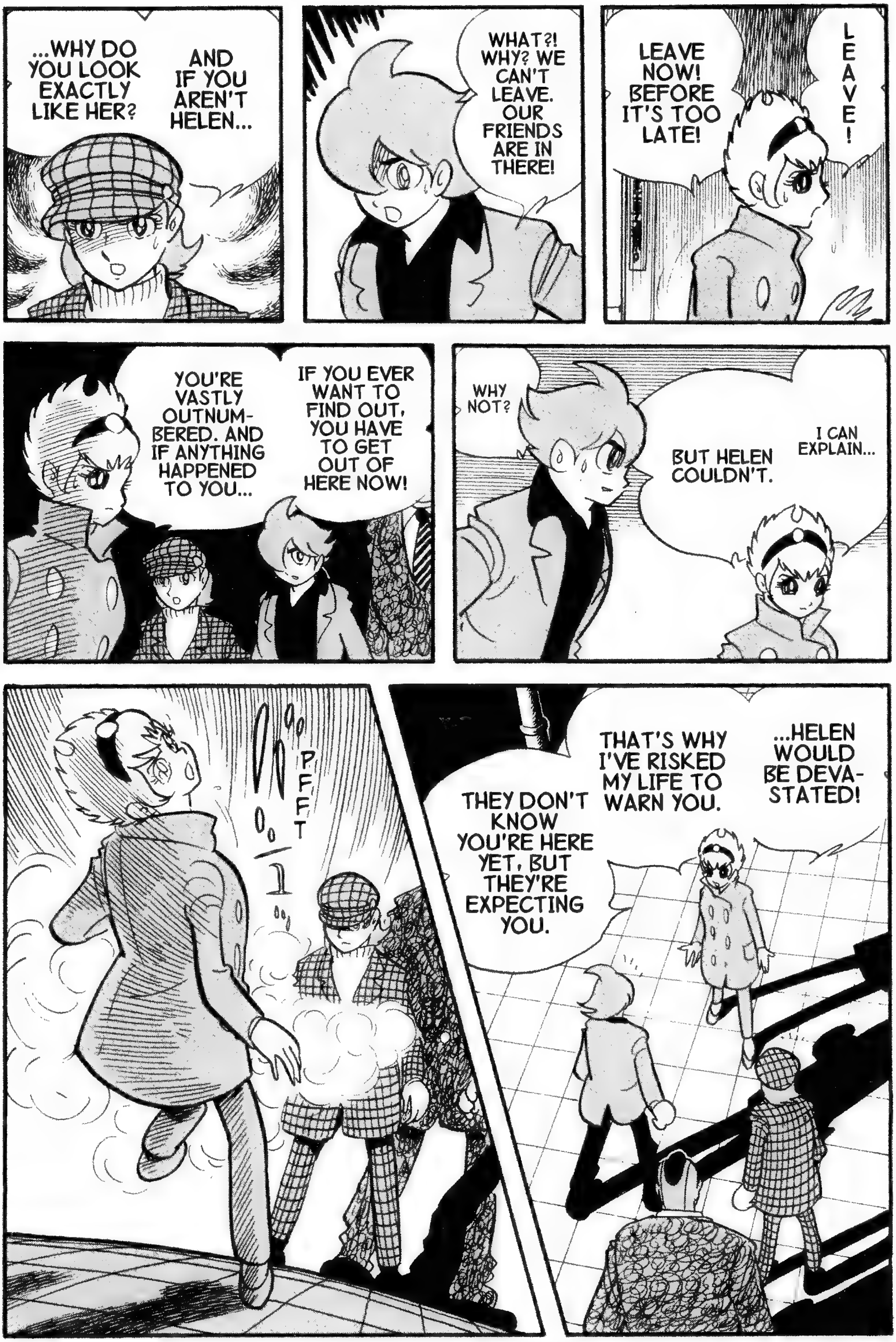

WORK AS A TEAM?
TEAMWORK IS ESSENTIAL!
WE ESCAPED GHOST ISLAND AS A TEAM. WE BEAT BLACK GHOST AS A TEAM.
IT'S ONLY AS A TEAM THAT WE HAVE REACHED ANY DEGREE OF SUCCESS.
BUT WE'VE GROWN LAZY. AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED. BLACK GHOST IS BACK IN FULL, AND WE'RE SCRAMBLING TO GET OURSELVES TOGETHER!
I'M AFRAID WE'RE NOT READY FOR THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD. NOT THIS TIME.
......
WE HAVE DRIFTED APART.
IT'S TRUE. IT TOOK US A LONG TIME TO REGROUP.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
BECAUSE EVERYONE WANTED A NORMAL LIFE.
HUH?
A NORMAL LIFE?
OUR SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS REQUIRED US TO BREAK AWAY FROM ONE ANOTHER.
YES, THE WHOLE HAS NOW SPLIT INTO ITS OWN PARTS.
WE MUST FORSAKE OUR HAPPINESS TO BE A TEAM AGAIN, AND WE MUST BE A TEAM AGAIN TO DEFEAT A STRONGER ENEMY.

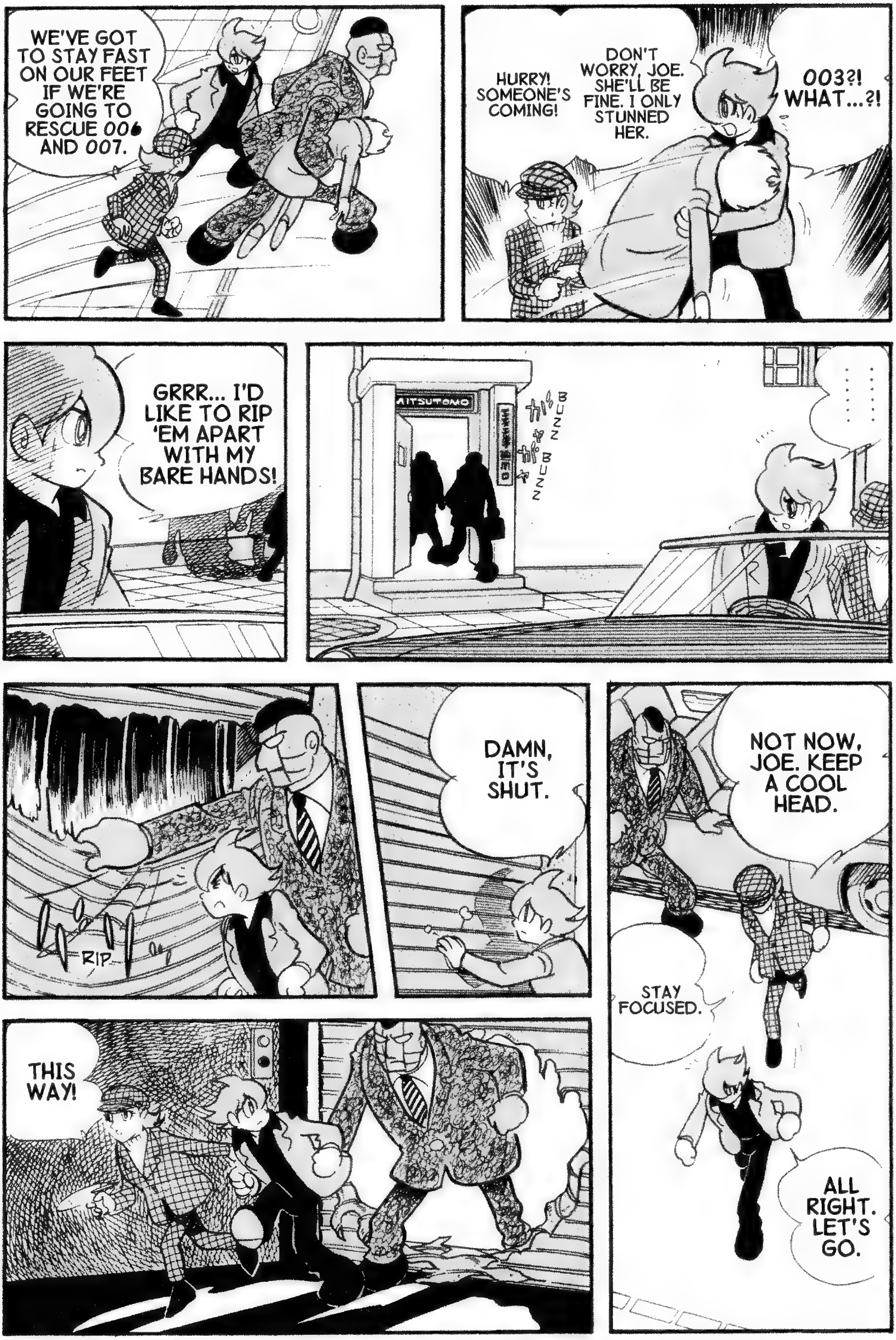
CHAPTER 33
COMMENCE ATTACK

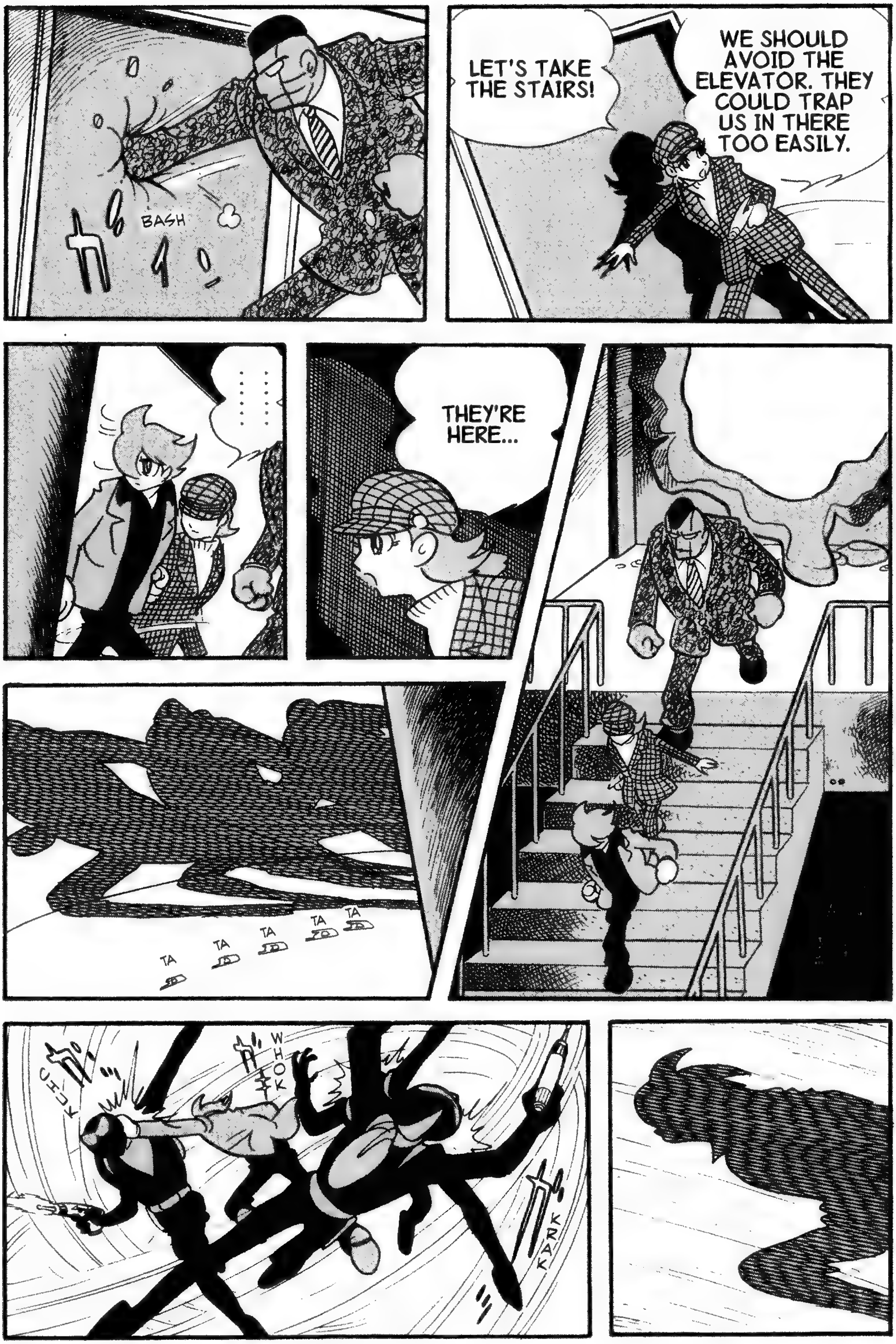

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE HAVE TO DO THIS NOW...
...OR WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY GROWS EVEN STRONGER! EITHER WAY...
BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE, FOR UNLESS WE DO THIS, NO ONE WILL HAVE HAPPINESS EVER AGAIN.
AND THAT MEANS LEARNING AGAIN HOW TO READ EACH OTHER, RE-GROWING OUR COLLECTIVE INTUITION.
MITSU
TOMO ENGINEERING.
MITSUTOMO
STUDIO-0
...THIS WILL BE OUR FIGHT. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES CAPABLE...
...OF STOPPING THE TERROR THAT THREATENS THE WORLD!

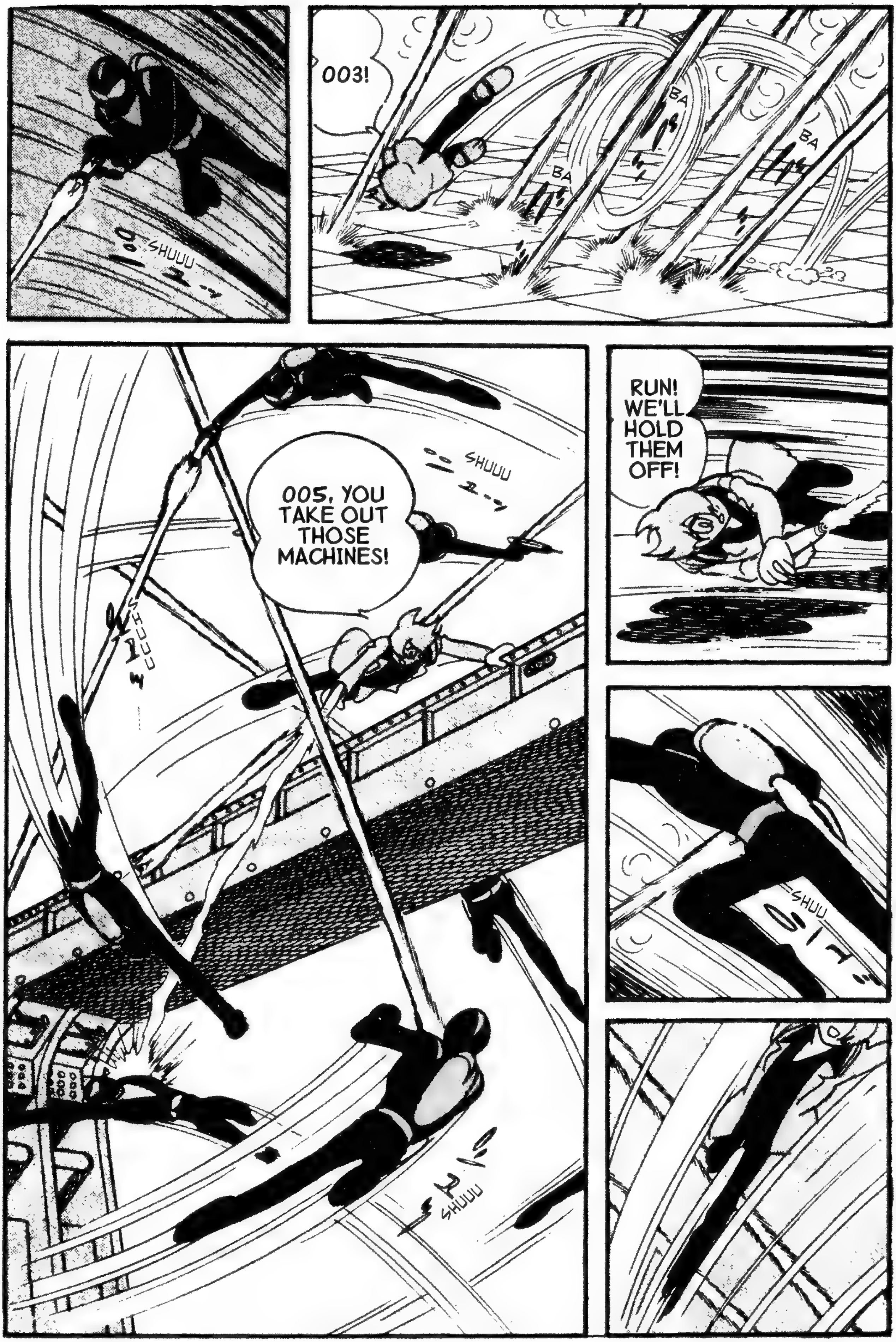

HAVE WE HEARD ANYTHING FROM 006 OR 007?
THEY'VE GIVEN ME A FEW BITS OF INFORMATION. THE BUILDING IS NOTHING SPECIAL...
...AT LEAST FROM GROUND LEVEL UP... BUT THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND AREA...
...AND IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S A CYBORG ARMY. MAYBE SEVEN TO TEN SOLDIERS STRONG.
THEY'RE BEING HELD IN THE DEEPEST PART OF THE UNDERGROUND LAIR...AND THEY'RE INJURED.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
AH!
THAT'S NOT ALL. I HEAR LARGE MACHINES... ULTRASONIC WAVE CANNONS.
DAMN! THE BLACK GHOST HAS INFILTRATED THE PLANT!
LET'S GO, TEAM!
YES.
WAIT!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
SUTOMO
MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING BACK ENTRANCE

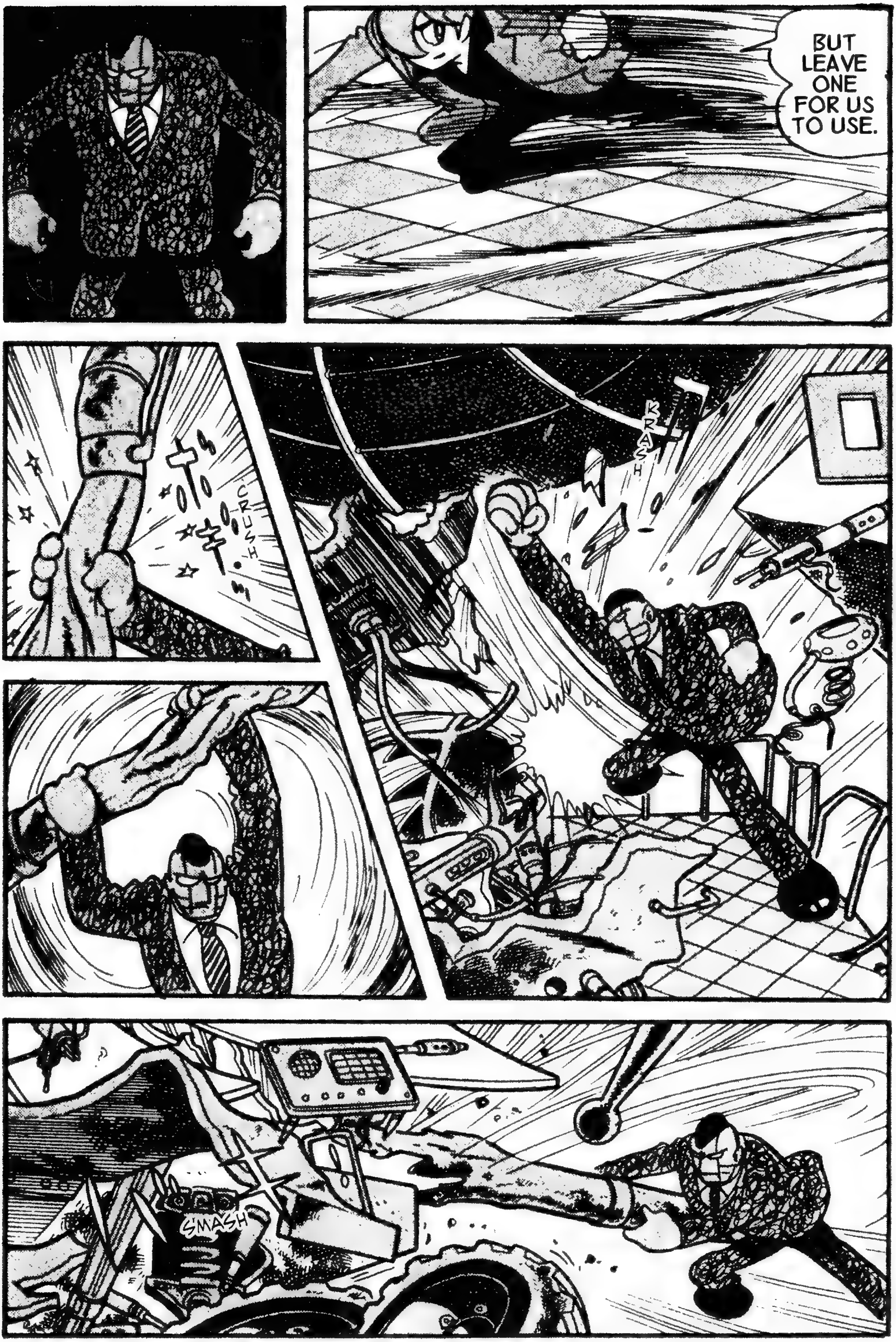

HELEN!
IT'S HELEN!
ARE YOU SURE?
YES. I'M POSITIVE! SHE'S ON HER WAY OUT HERE.
ARE YOU SURE IT ISN'T ANOTHER SHAPE-SHIFTER?
NO, IT'S HER.
WAIT! IF I CONCENTRATE HARD ENOUGH, I CAN SEE HER BIOLOGICAL MAKE-UP.
YES. HELEN IS... DEFINITELY HUMAN.
HMM.
MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING REAR ENTRANCE
HELLO...
GOOD EVENING, JOE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? UNLESS YOU'RE...
...HELEN?!
NO, MY NAME IS VENUS, AND WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

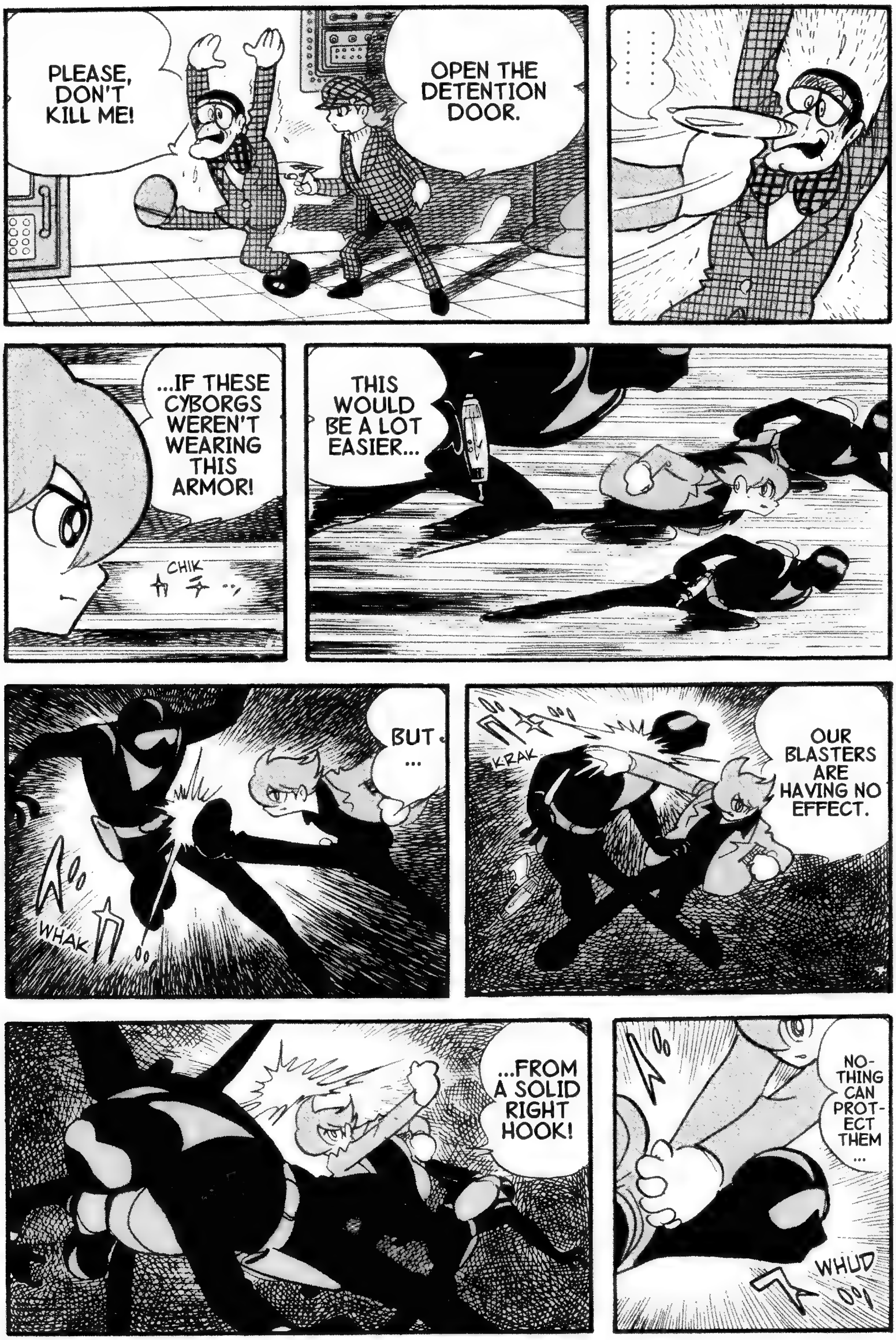

LEAVE!
LEAVE NOW! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
WHAT?! WHY? WE CAN'T LEAVE. OUR FRIENDS ARE IN THERE!
AND IF YOU AREN'T HELEN...
...WHY DO YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HER?
I CAN EXPLAIN...
BUT HELEN COULDN'T.
WHY NOT?
IF YOU EVER WANT TO FIND OUT, YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
YOU'RE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED. AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU...
...HELEN WOULD BE DEVASTATED!
THAT'S WHY I'VE RISKED MY LIFE TO WARN YOU.
THEY DON'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE YET, BUT THEY'RE EXPECTING YOU.
PFFT

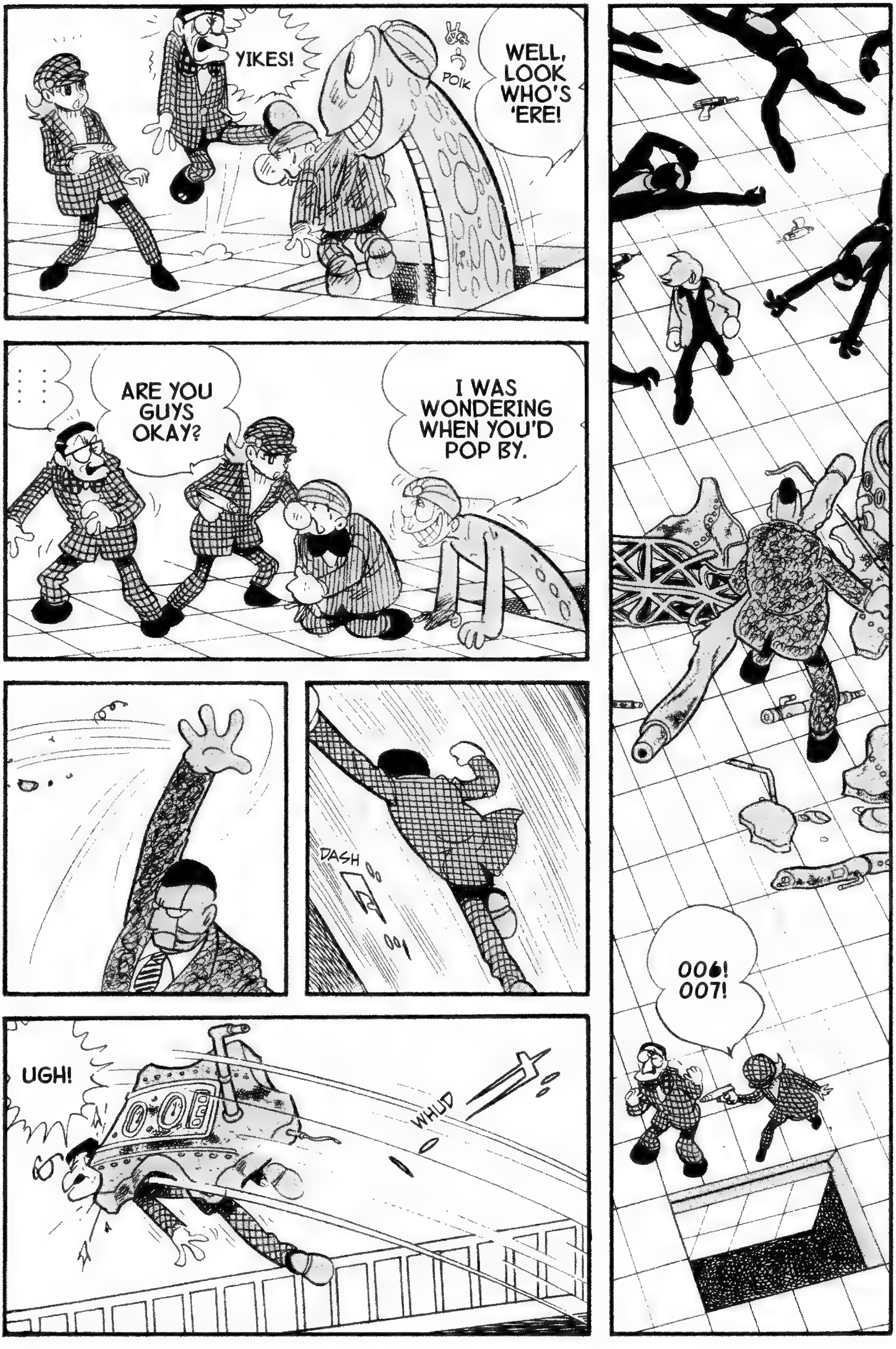

WE'VE GOT TO STAY FAST ON OUR FEET IF WE'RE GOING TO RESCUE 006 AND 007.
003?! WHAT...?!
DON'T WORRY, JOE. SHE'LL BE FINE. I ONLY STUNNED HER.
HURRY! SOMEONE'S COMING!
GRRR... I'D LIKE TO RIP 'EM APART WITH MY BARE HANDS!
MITSUTOMO
BUZZ BUZZ
......
RIP
DAMN, IT'S SHUT.
NOT NOW, JOE. KEEP A COOL HEAD.
STAY FOCUSED.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.
THIS WAY!

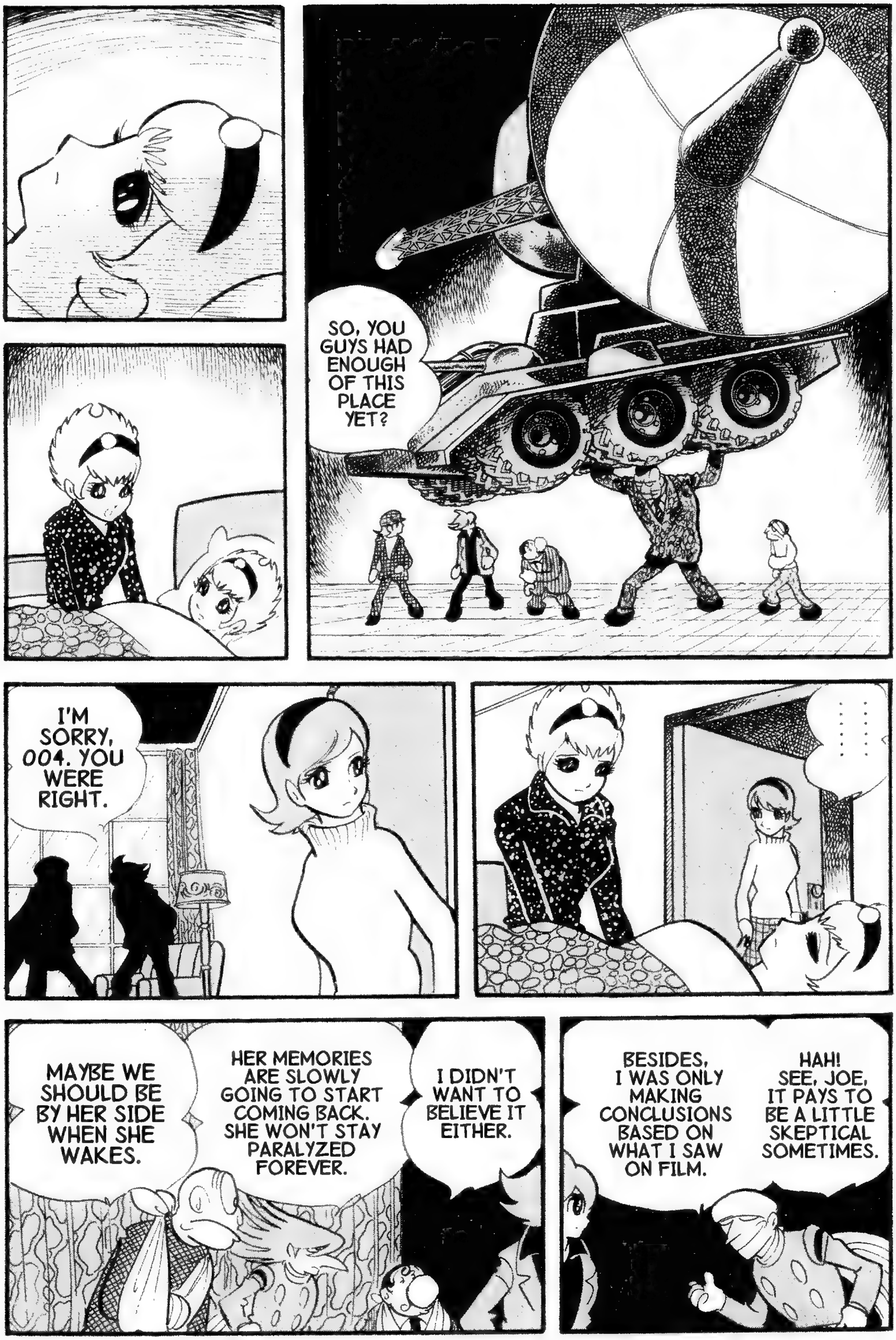

BASH
LET'S TAKE THE STAIRS!
WE SHOULD AVOID THE ELEVATOR. THEY COULD TRAP US IN THERE TOO EASILY.
......
THEY'RE HERE...
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
CHUK
WHOK
KRAK

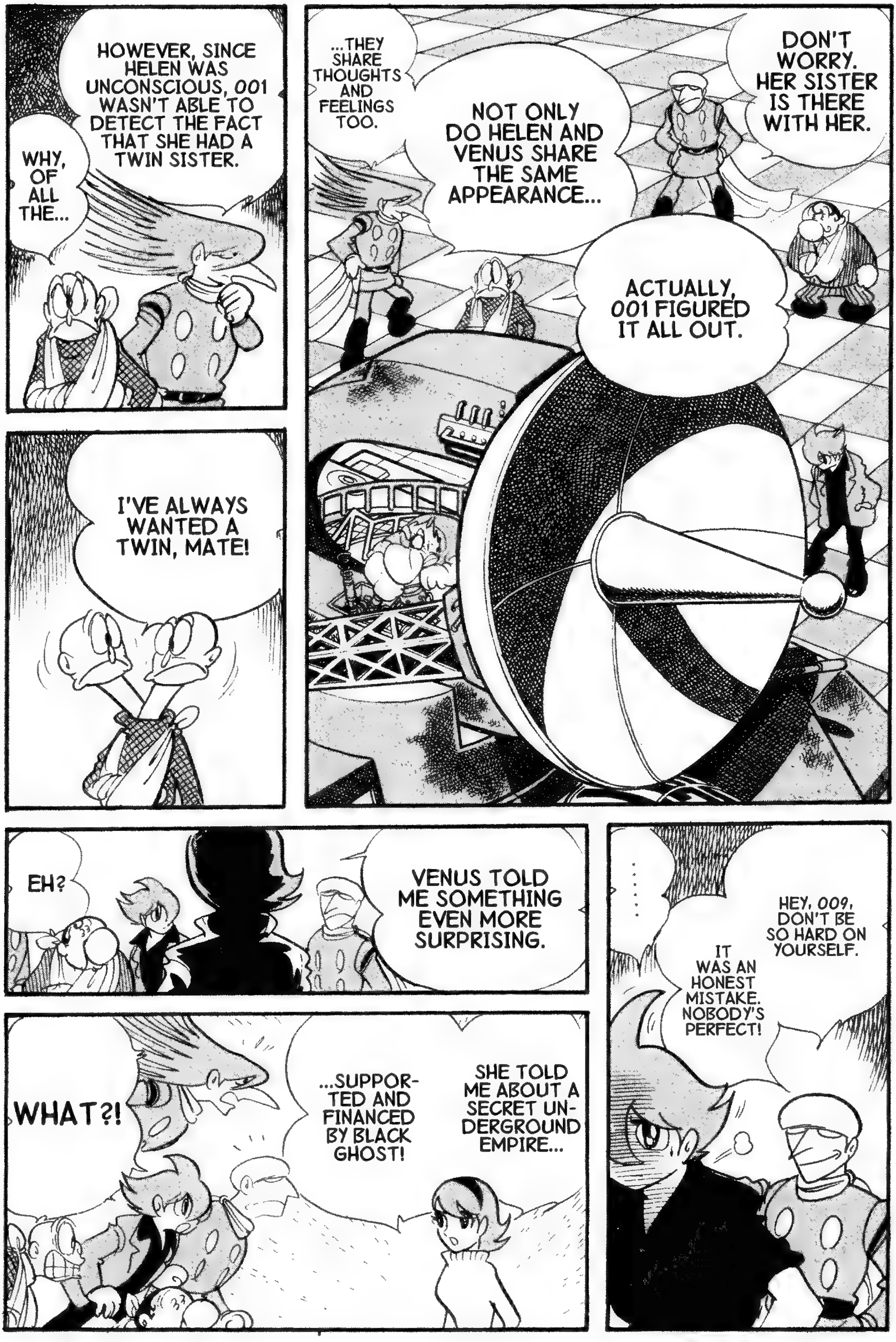

SHUUU
003!
BA
BA
BA
SHUUU
005, YOU TAKE OUT THOSE MACHINES!
SHUUU
SHUUU
RUN! WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
SHUU

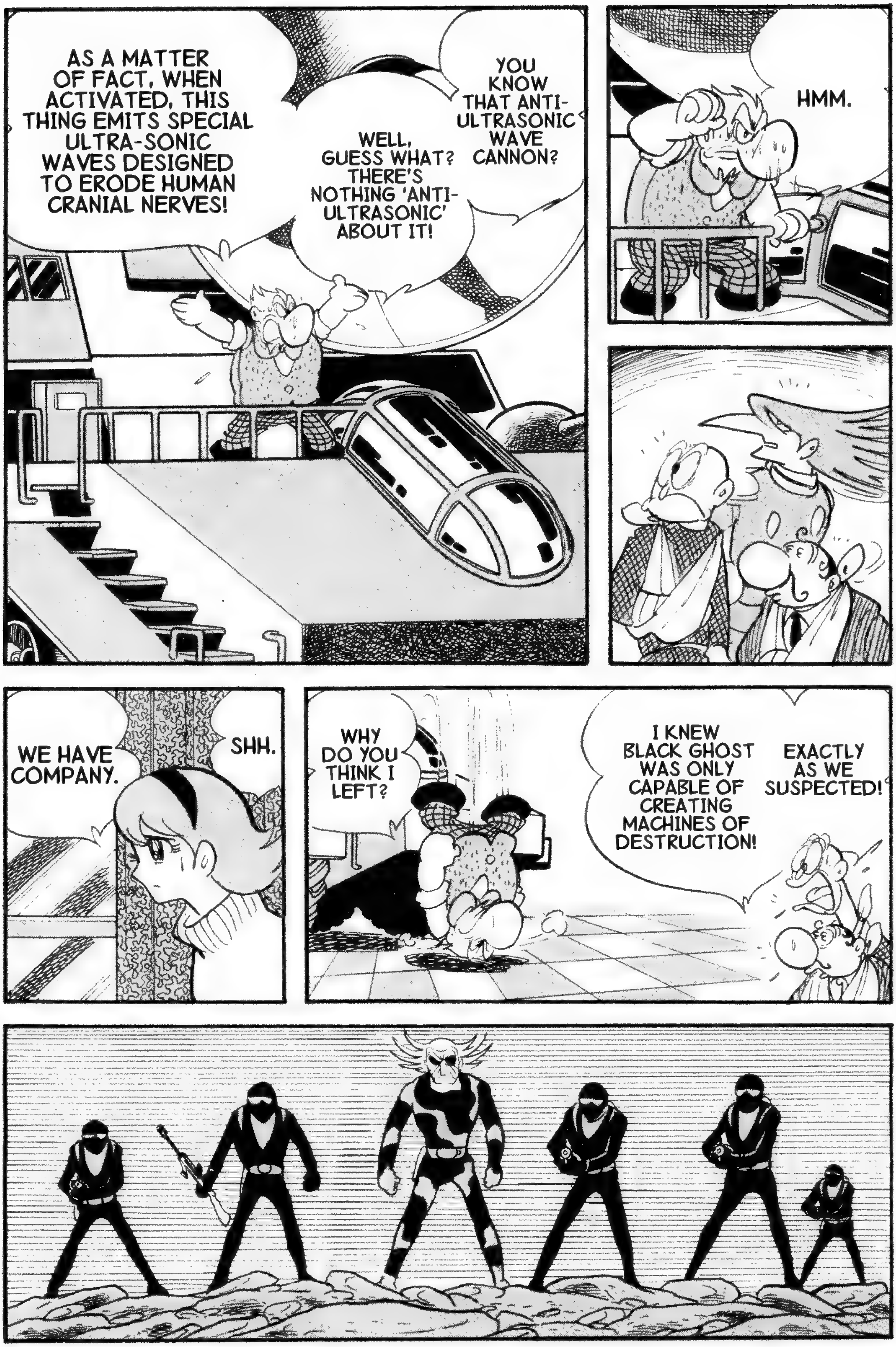

BUT LEAVE ONE FOR US TO USE.
CRUSH
KRASH
SMASH

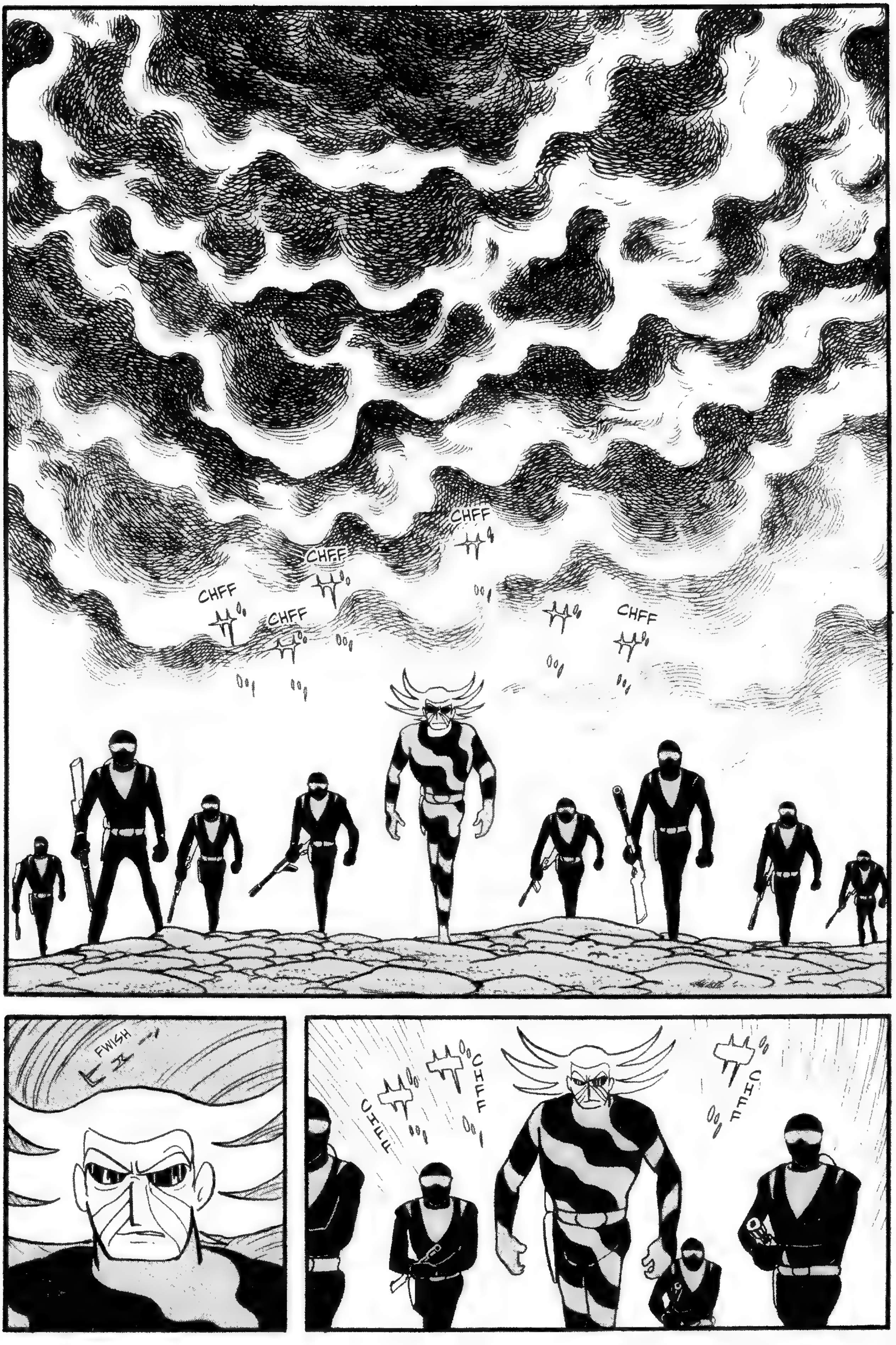

......
OPEN THE DETENTION DOOR.
PLEASE, DON'T KILL ME!
THIS WOULD BE A LOT EASIER...
...IF THESE CYBORGS WEREN'T WEARING THIS ARMOR!
CHIK
OUR BLASTERS ARE HAVING NO EFFECT.
KRAK
BUT ...
WHAK
NOTHING CAN PROTECT THEM ...
WHUD
...FROM A SOLID RIGHT HOOK!

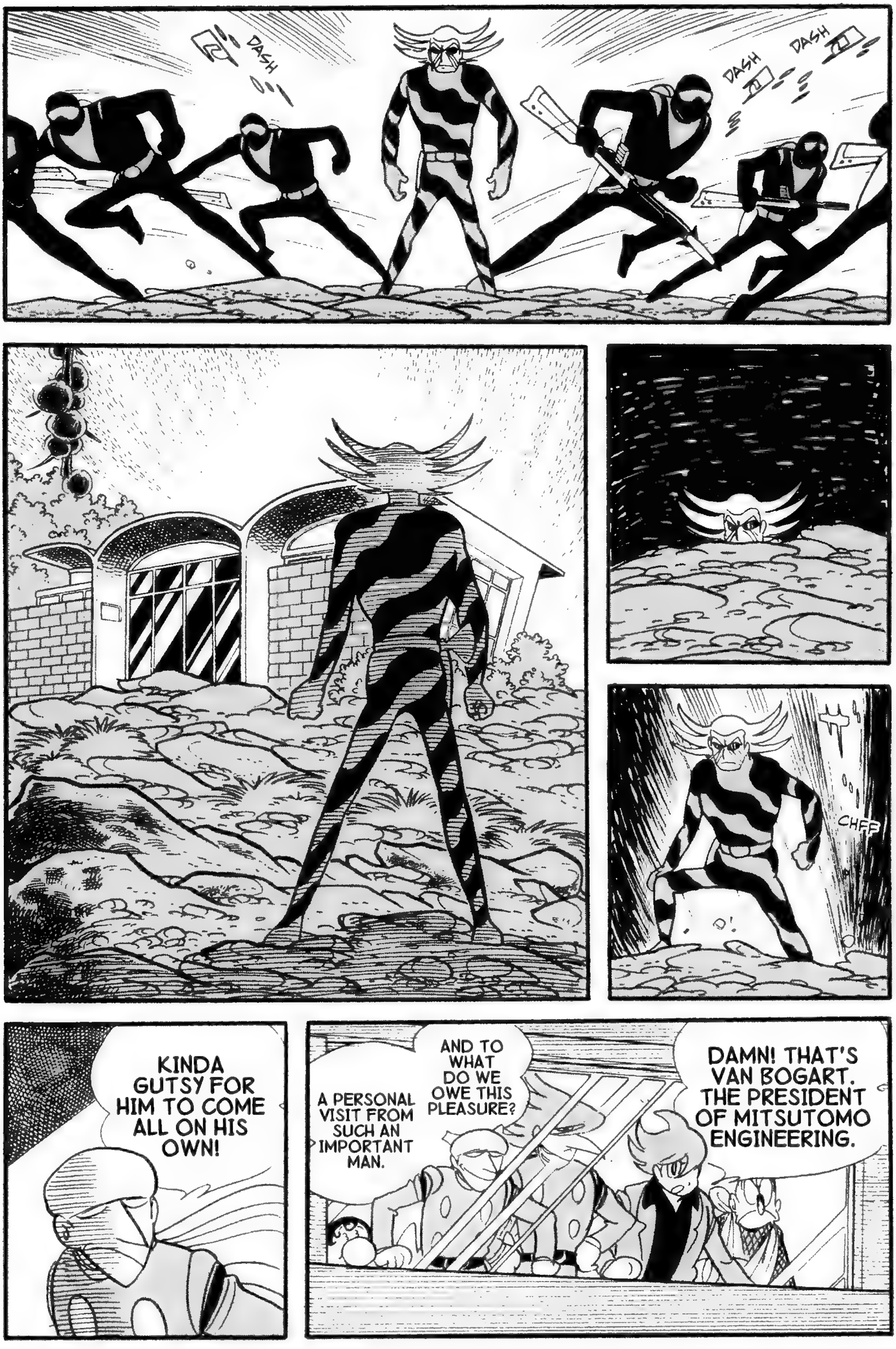

YIKES!
POIK
WELL, LOOK WHO'S 'ERE!
. . . . . .
ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D POP BY.
DASH
UGH!
WHUD
006! 007!

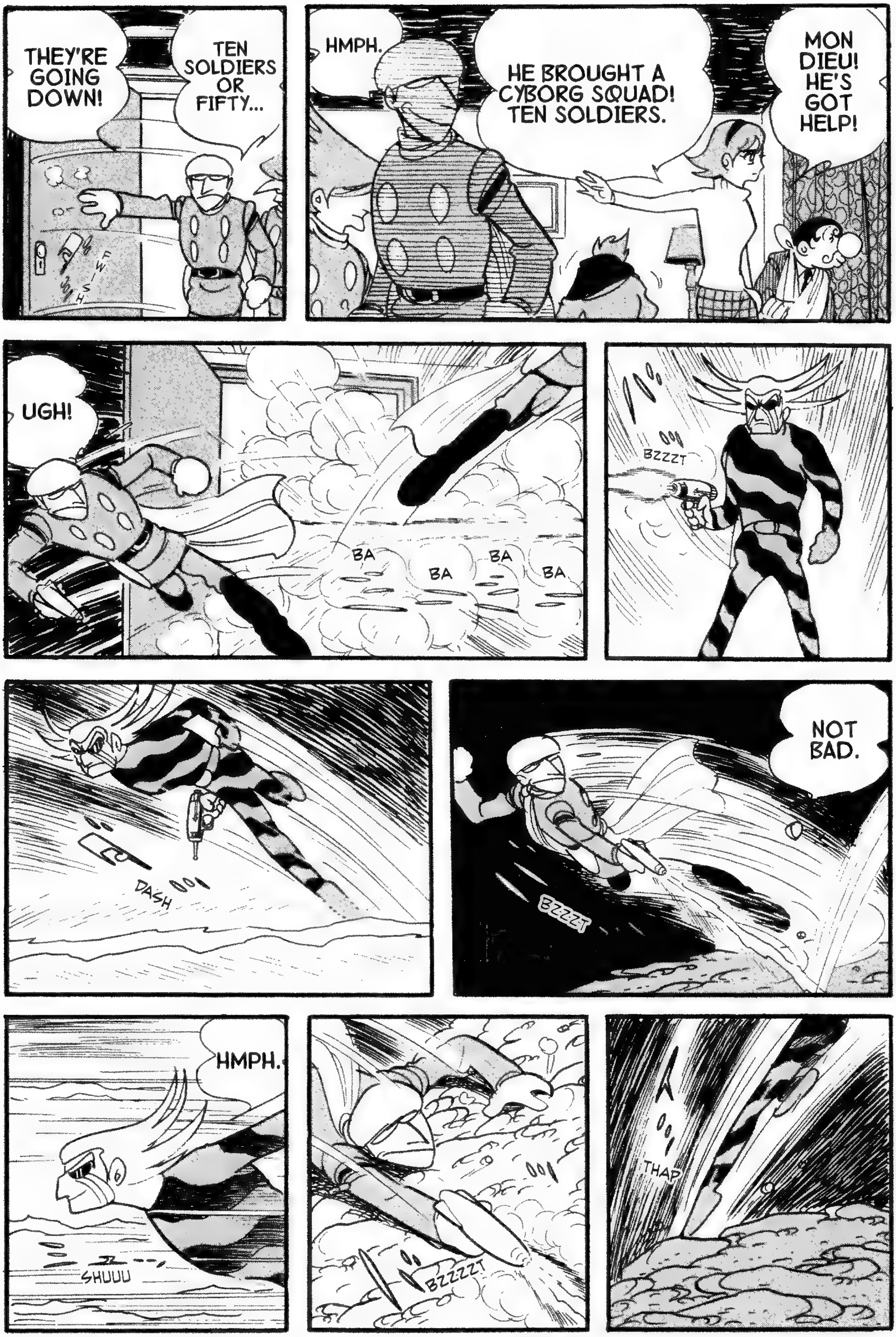

SO, YOU GUYS HAD ENOUGH OF THIS PLACE YET?
......
I'M SORRY, 004. YOU WERE RIGHT.
HAH! SEE, JOE, IT PAYS TO BE A LITTLE SKEPTICAL SOMETIMES.
BESIDES, I WAS ONLY MAKING CONCLUSIONS BASED ON WHAT I SAW ON FILM.
I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT EITHER.
HER MEMORIES ARE SLOWLY GOING TO START COMING BACK. SHE WON'T STAY PARALYZED FOREVER.
MAYBE WE SHOULD BE BY HER SIDE WHEN SHE WAKES.

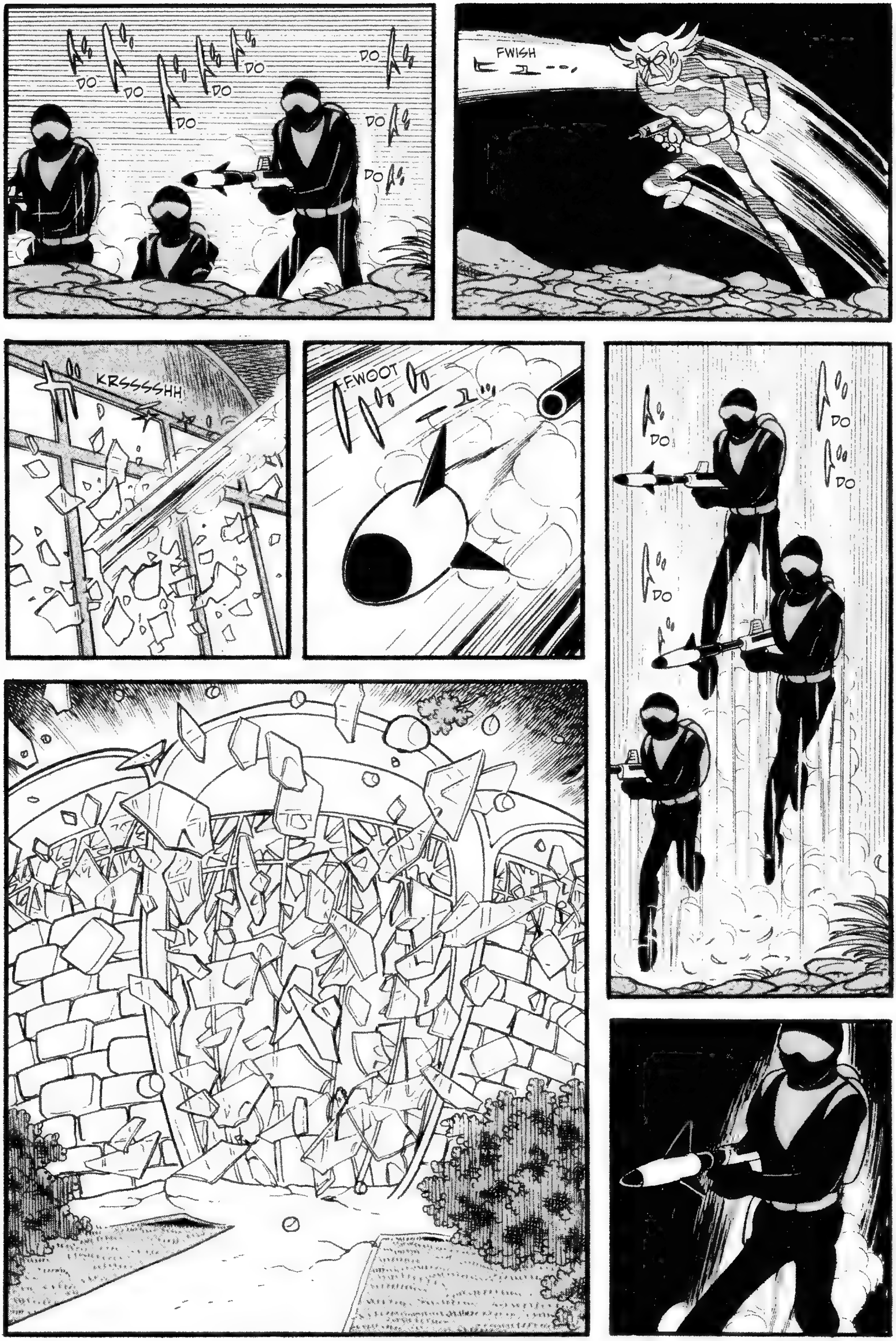

DON'T WORRY. HER SISTER IS THERE WITH HER.
ACTUALLY, 001 FIGURED IT ALL OUT.
NOT ONLY DO HELEN AND VENUS SHARE THE SAME APPEARANCE...
...THEY SHARE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS TOO.
HOWEVER, SINCE HELEN WAS UNCONSCIOUS, 001 WASN'T ABLE TO DETECT THE FACT THAT SHE HAD A TWIN SISTER.
WHY, OF ALL THE...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A TWIN, MATE!
HEY, 009, DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.
IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE. NOBODY'S PERFECT!
......
VENUS TOLD ME SOMETHING EVEN MORE SURPRISING.
EH?
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT A SECRET UNDERGROUND EMPIRE...
...SUPPORTED AND FINANCED BY BLACK GHOST!
WHAT?!

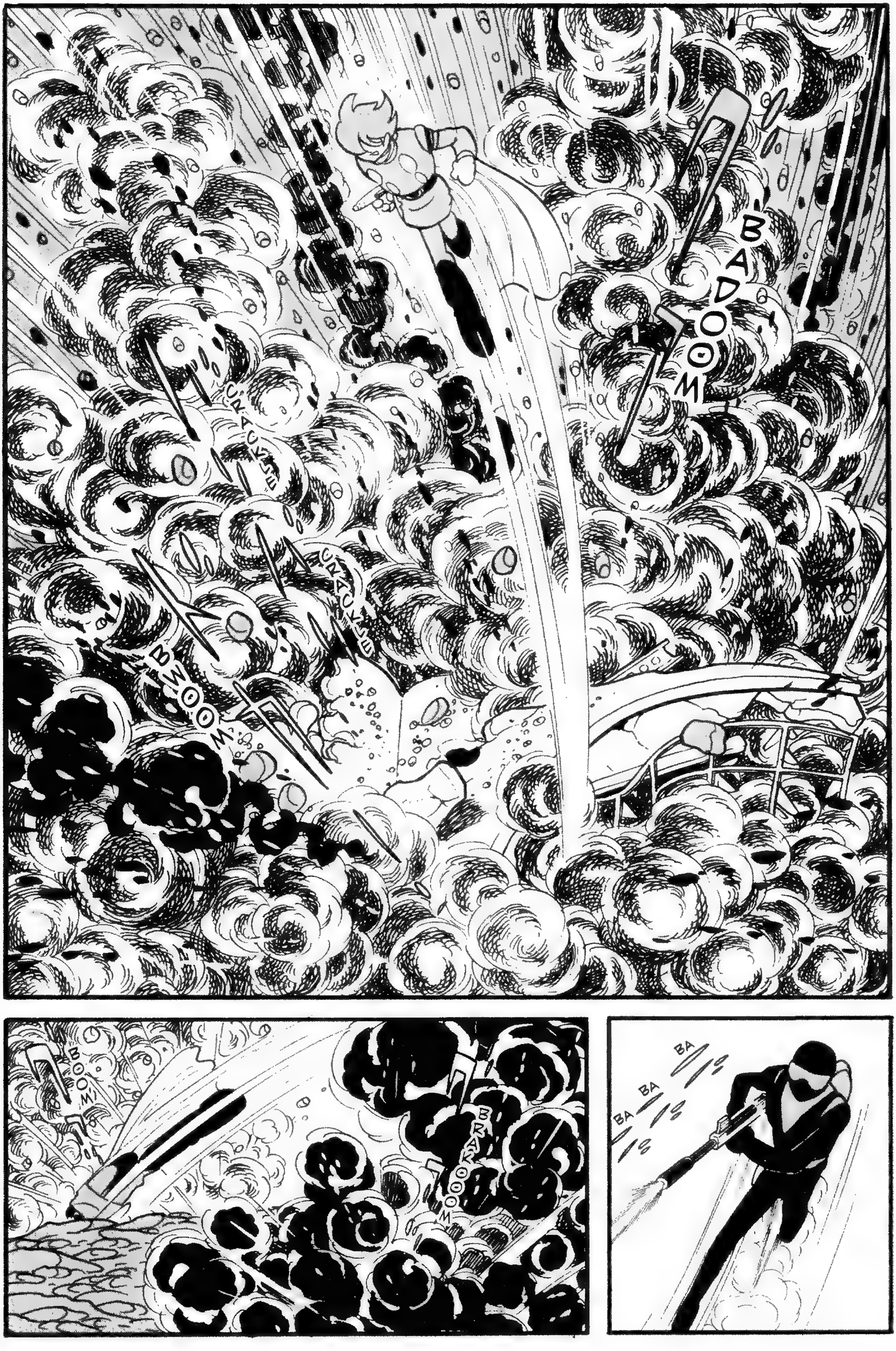

YOU KNOW THAT ANTI-ULTRASONIC WAVE CANNON?
WELL, GUESS WHAT? THERE'S NOTHING 'ANTI-ULTRASONIC' ABOUT IT!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHEN ACTIVATED, THIS THING EMITS SPECIAL ULTRA-SONIC WAVES DESIGNED TO ERODE HUMAN CRANIAL NERVES!
HMM.
WE HAVE COMPANY.
SHH.
WHY DO YOU THINK I LEFT?
EXACTLY AS WE SUSPECTED!
I KNEW BLACK GHOST WAS ONLY CAPABLE OF CREATING MACHINES OF DESTRUCTION!

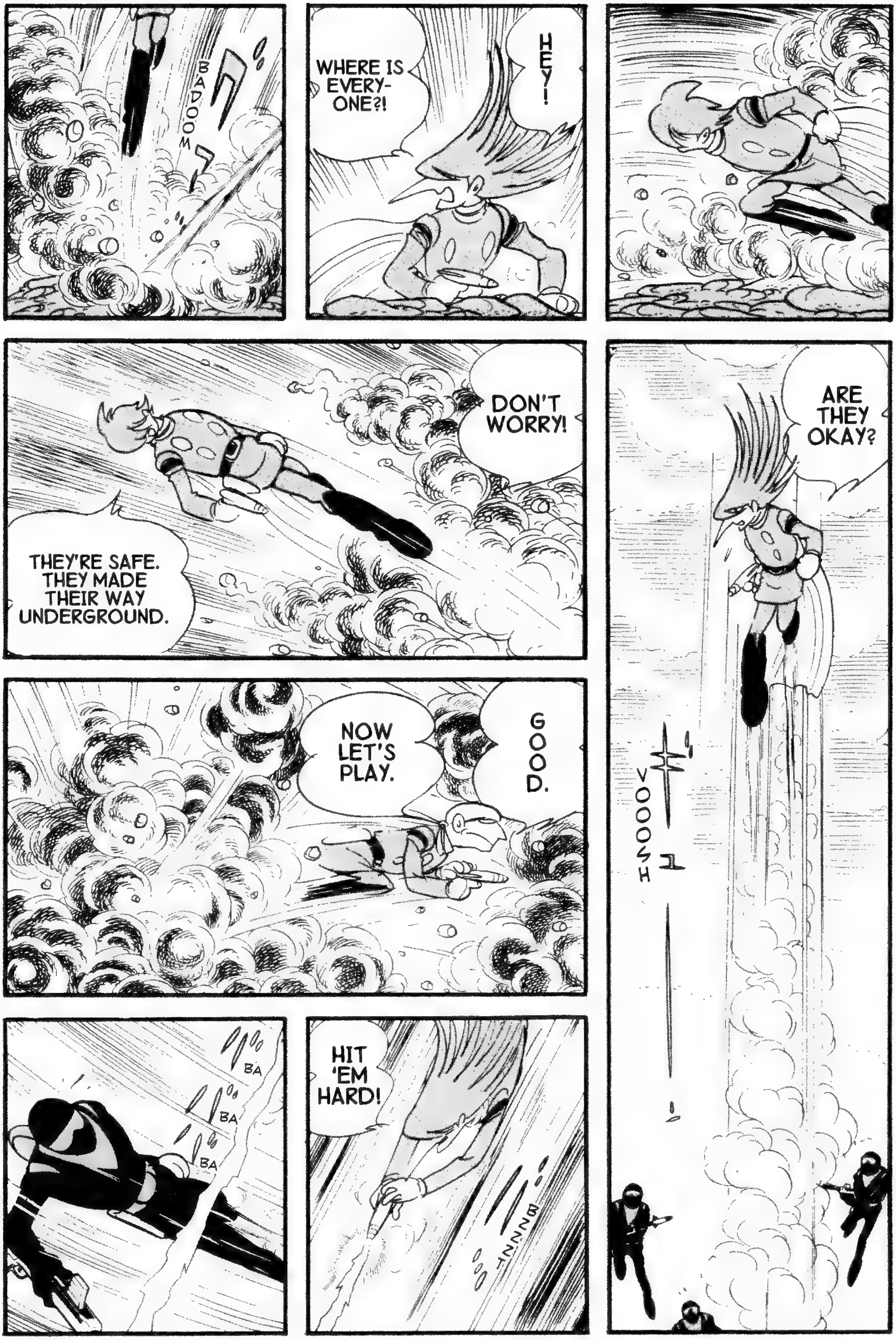

CHFF
CHFF
CHFF
CHFF
CHFF
FWISH
ヒュ
CHFF
CHFF
CHFF

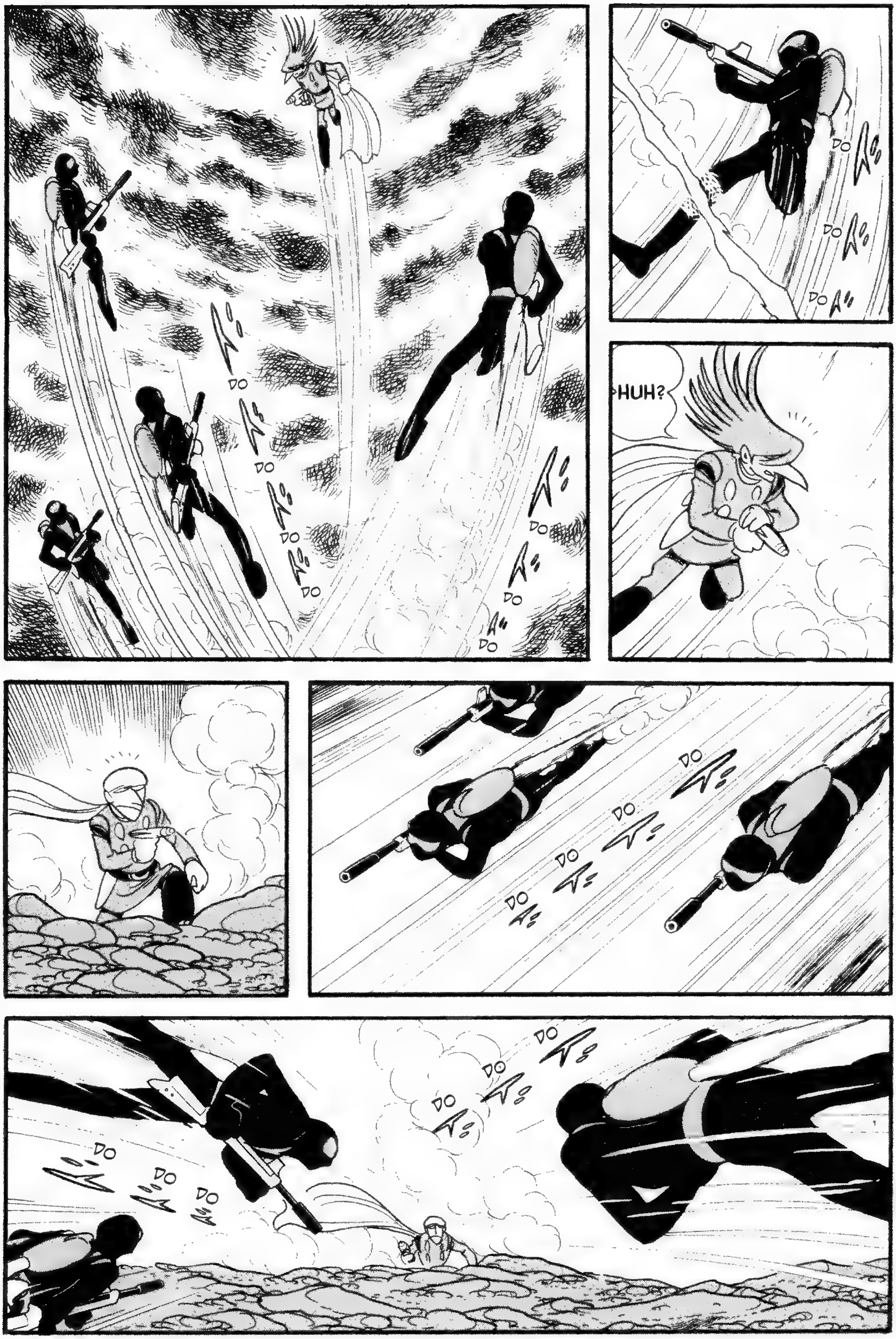

DASH
DASH
DASH
CHFF
KINDA GUTSY FOR HIM TO COME ALL ON HIS OWN!
A PERSONAL VISIT FROM SUCH AN IMPORTANT MAN.
AND TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS PLEASURE?
DAMN! THAT'S VAN BOGART. THE PRESIDENT OF MITSUTOMO ENGINEERING.

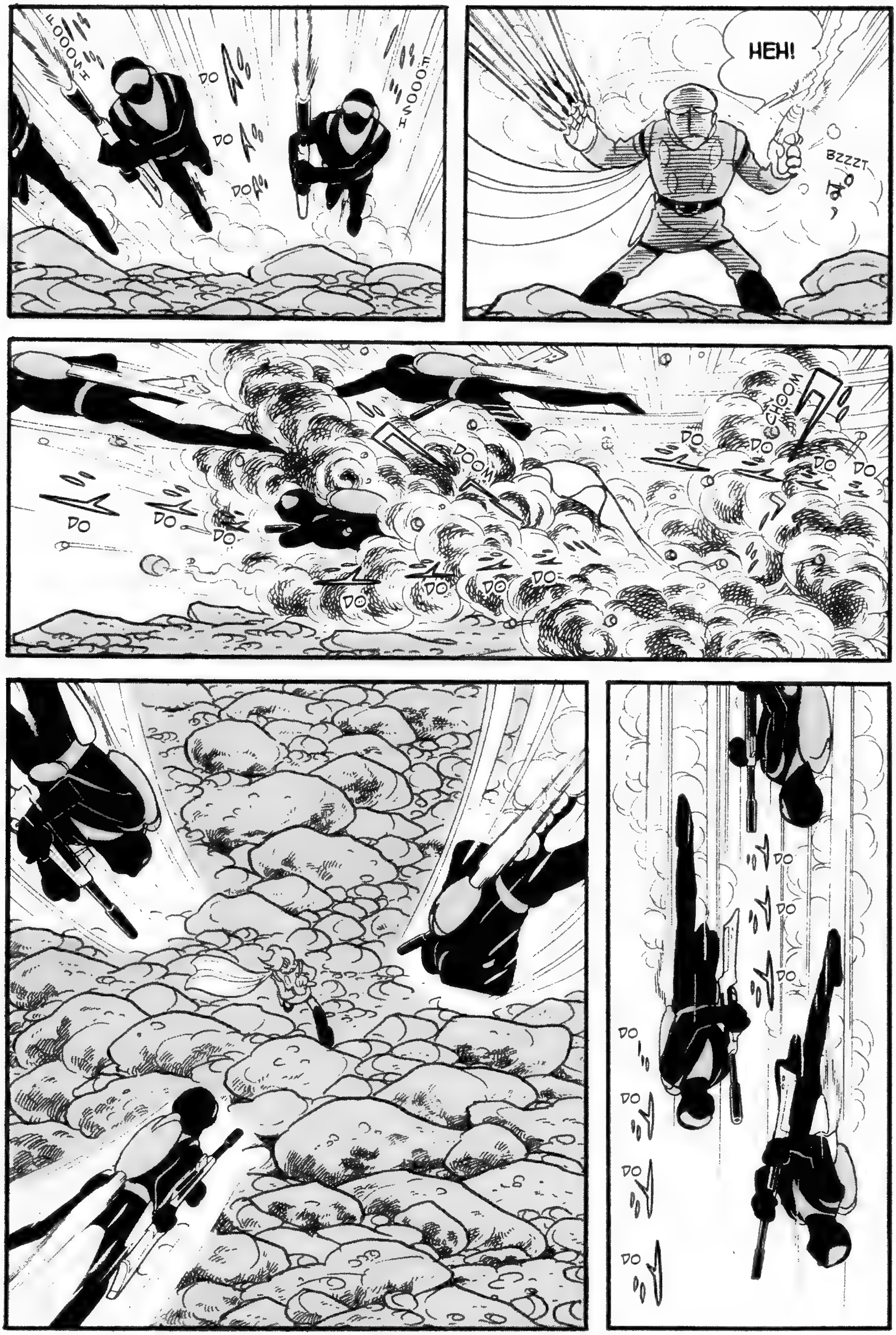

THEY'RE GOING DOWN!
TEN SOLDIERS OR FIFTY...
FWISH
HMPH.
HE BROUGHT A CYBORG SQUAD! TEN SOLDIERS.
MON DIEU! HE'S GOT HELP!
UGH!
BA
BA
BA
BA
BZZZT
DASH
NOT BAD.
BZZZT
HMPH.
SHUUU
BZZZZT
THAP

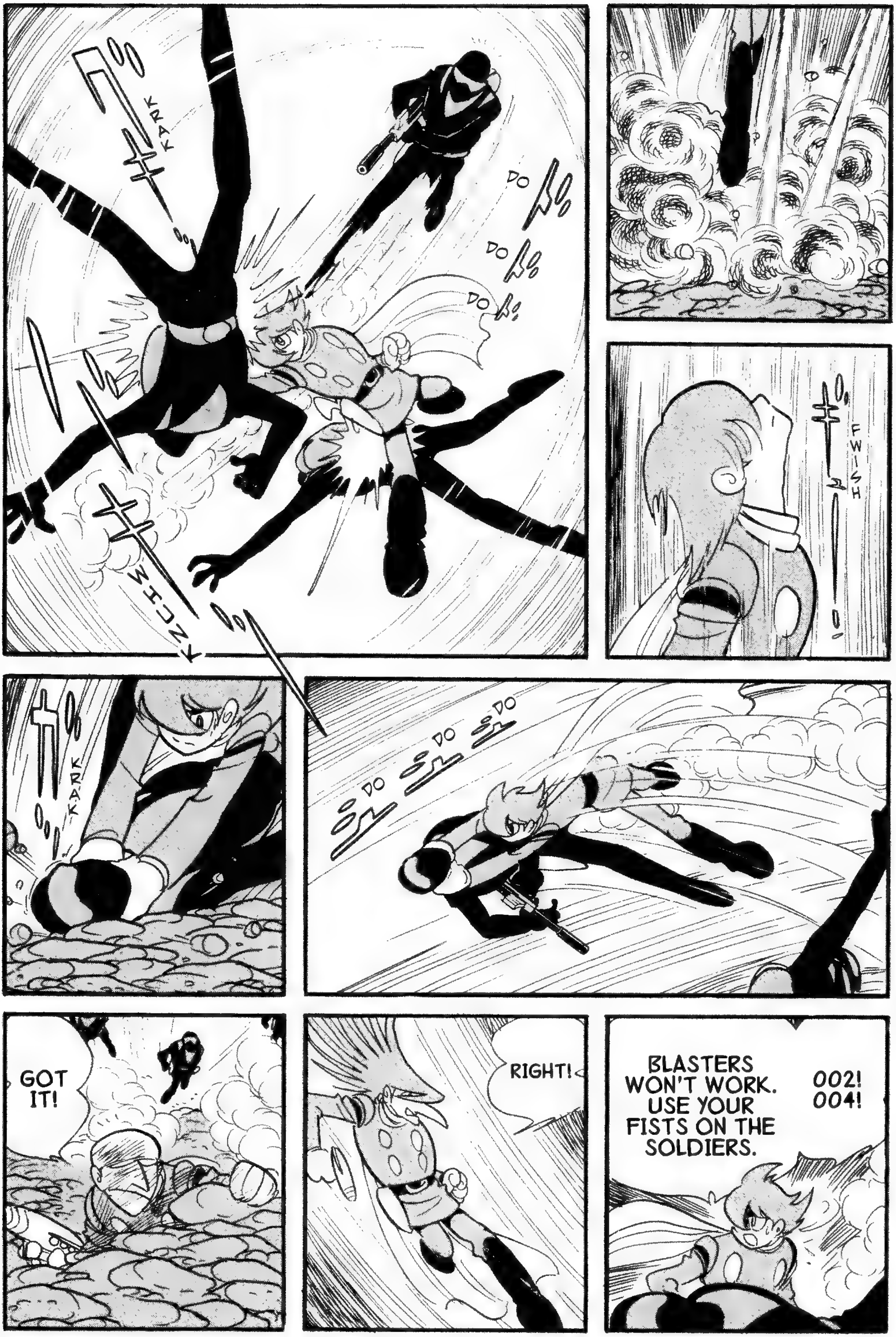

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
FWISH
KRSSSSSHH
FWOOT
DO
DO
DO
DO

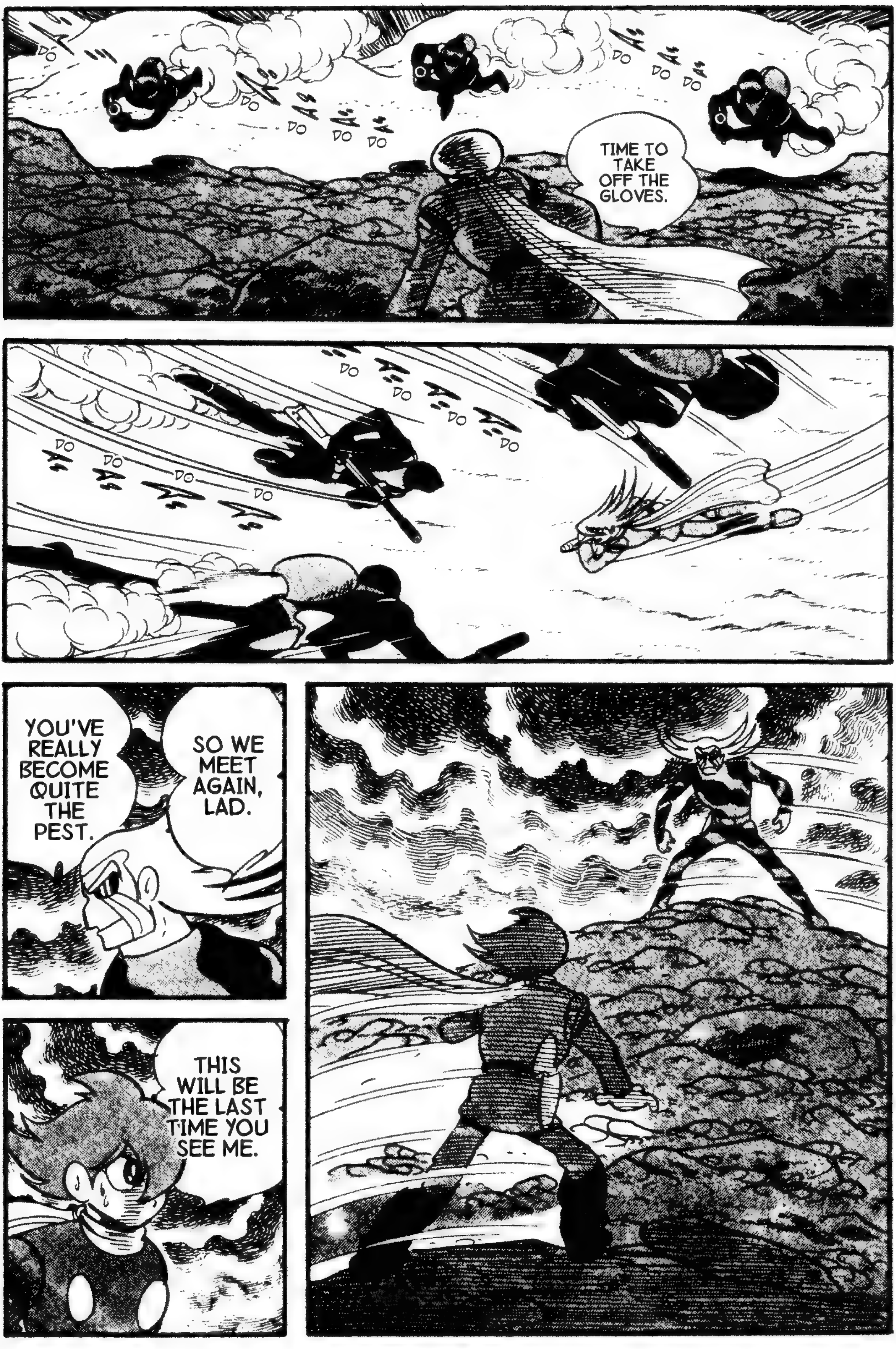

BADOOM
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
BWOOM
BOOM!
BRAKOOOM
BA
BA
BA
BA

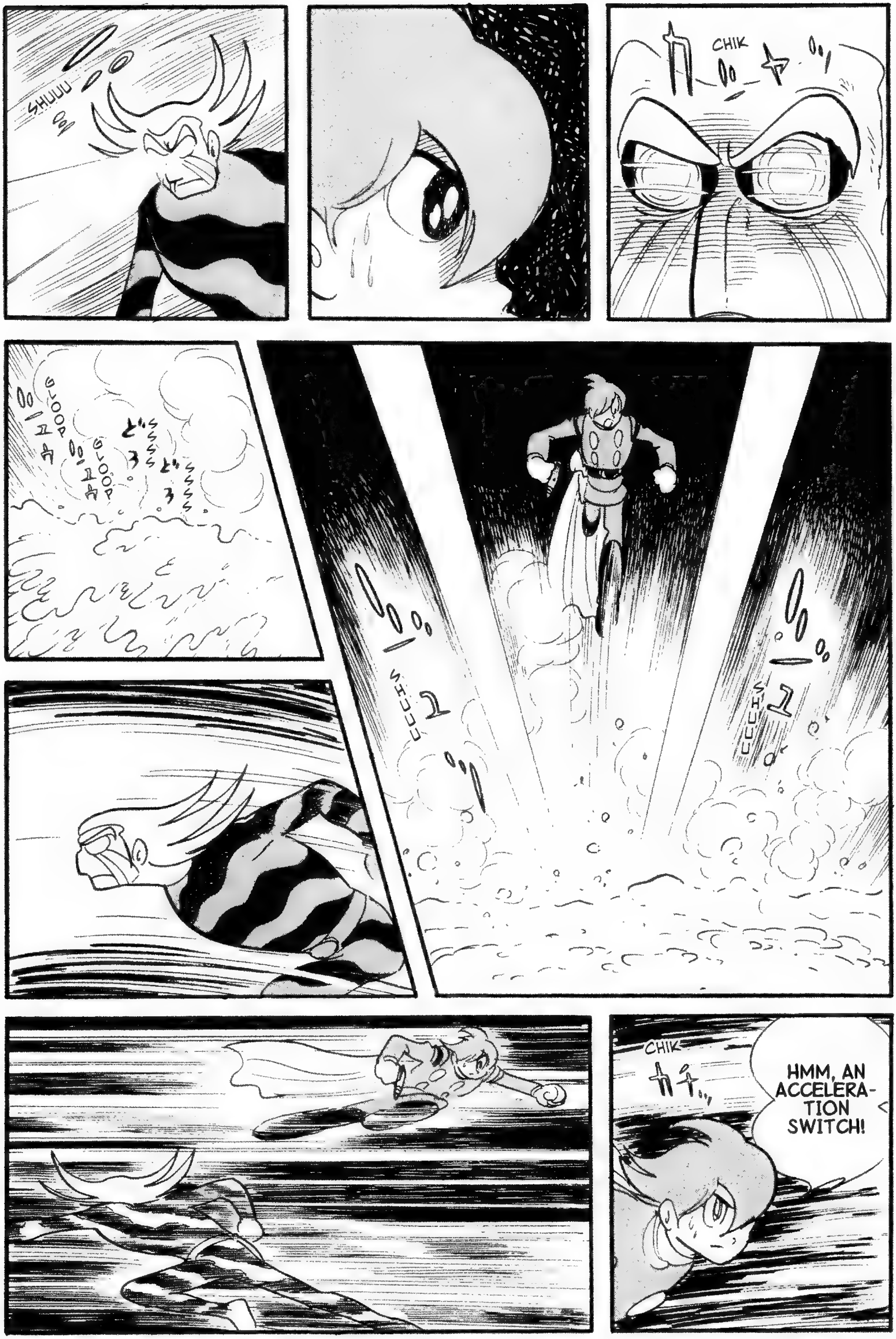

BADOOM
HEY!
WHERE IS EVERYONE?!
DON'T WORRY!
THEY'RE SAFE. THEY MADE THEIR WAY UNDERGROUND.
ARE THEY OKAY?
VOOOSH
GOOD.
NOW LET'S PLAY.
BA
BA
BA
HIT 'EM HARD!
BZZZT

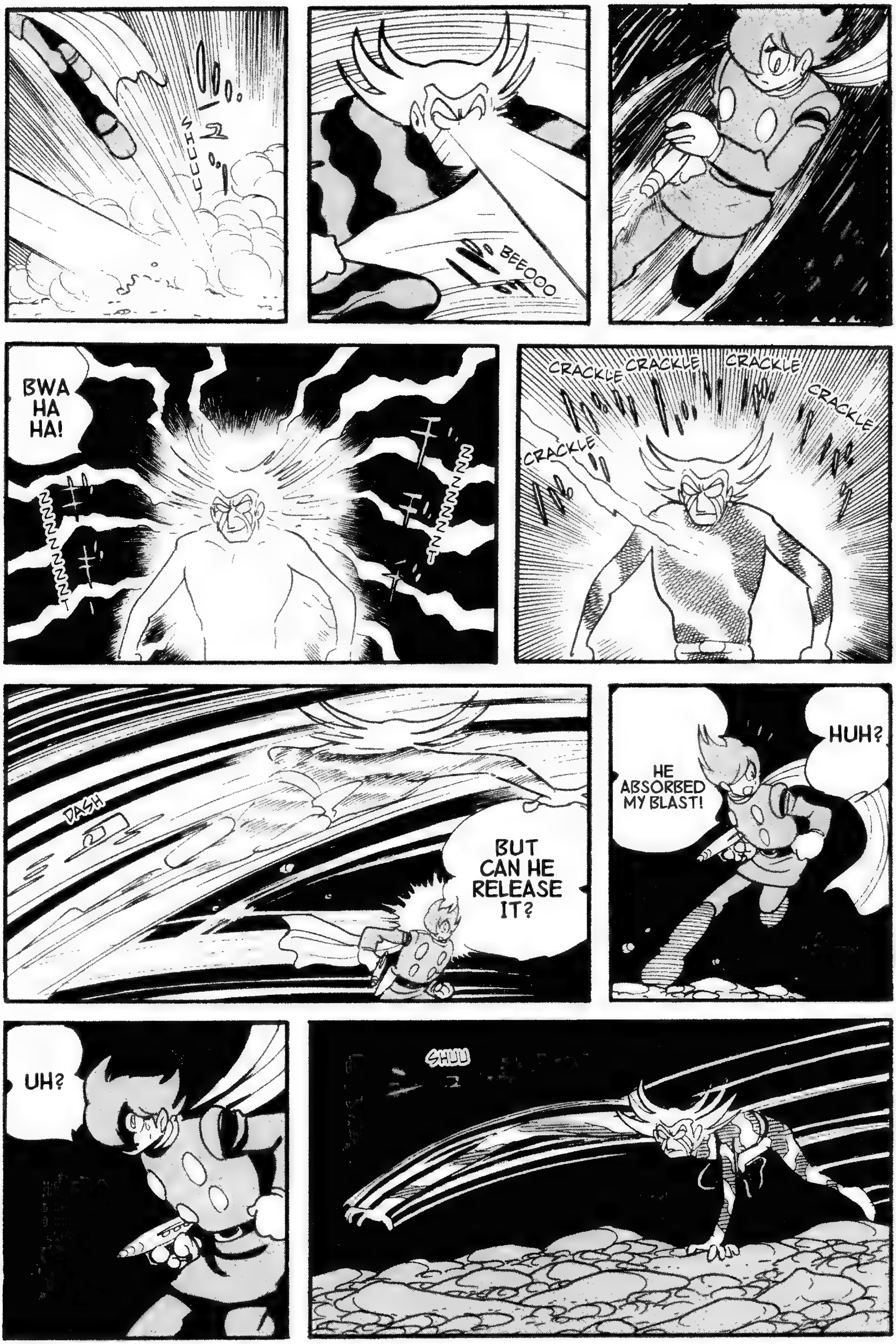

DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
DO DO DO
HUH?
DO DO DO DO
DO DO DO DO DO DO

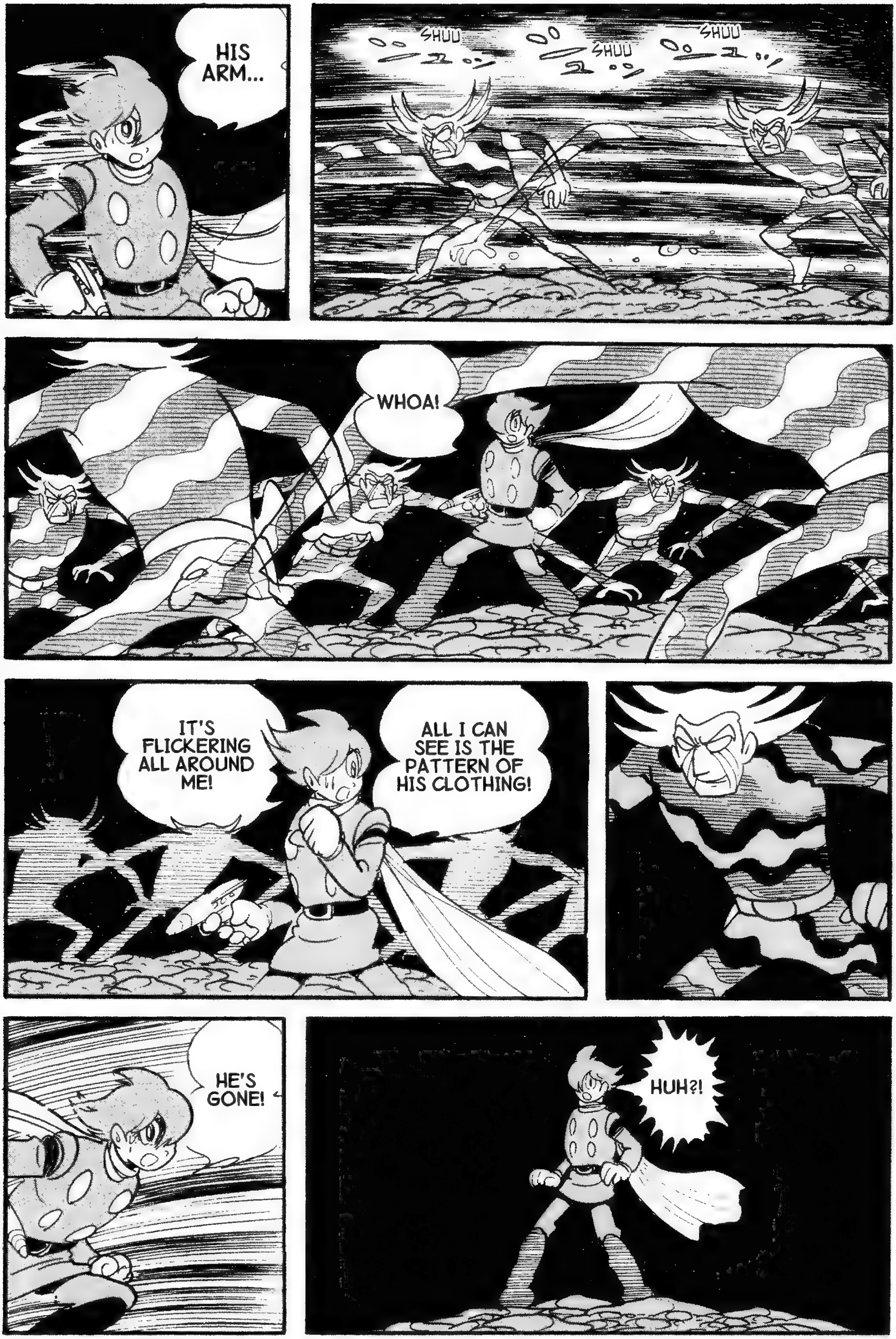

FOOOSH
DO
DO
DO
FOOOSH
HEH!
BZZZT
DO
DO
DO
DOOM
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DOCHOOM
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

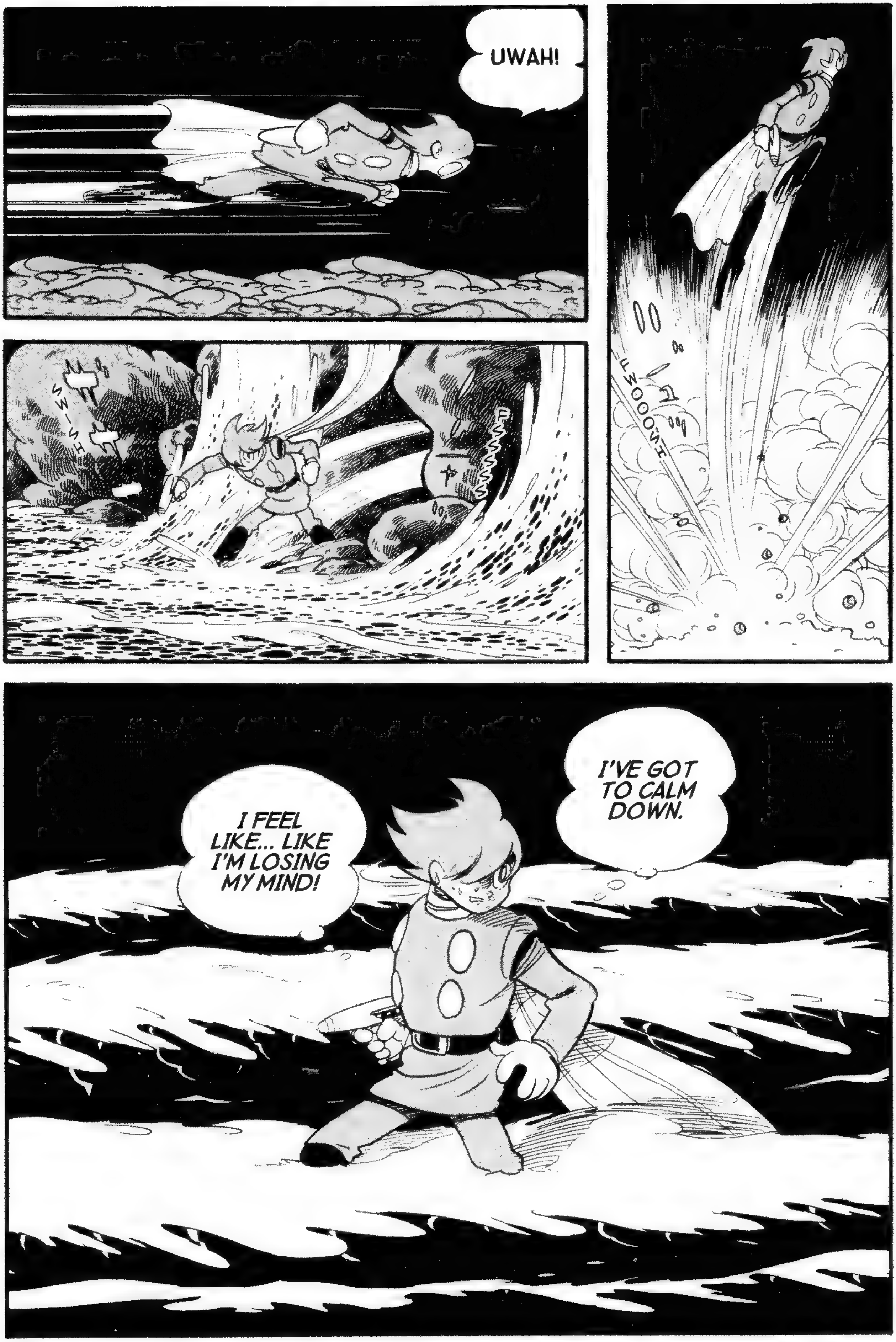

FWISH
KRAK
DO DO DO
WHUNK
DO DO DO DO
KRAK
002! 004!
BLASTERS WON'T WORK. USE YOUR FISTS ON THE SOLDIERS.
RIGHT!
GOT IT!

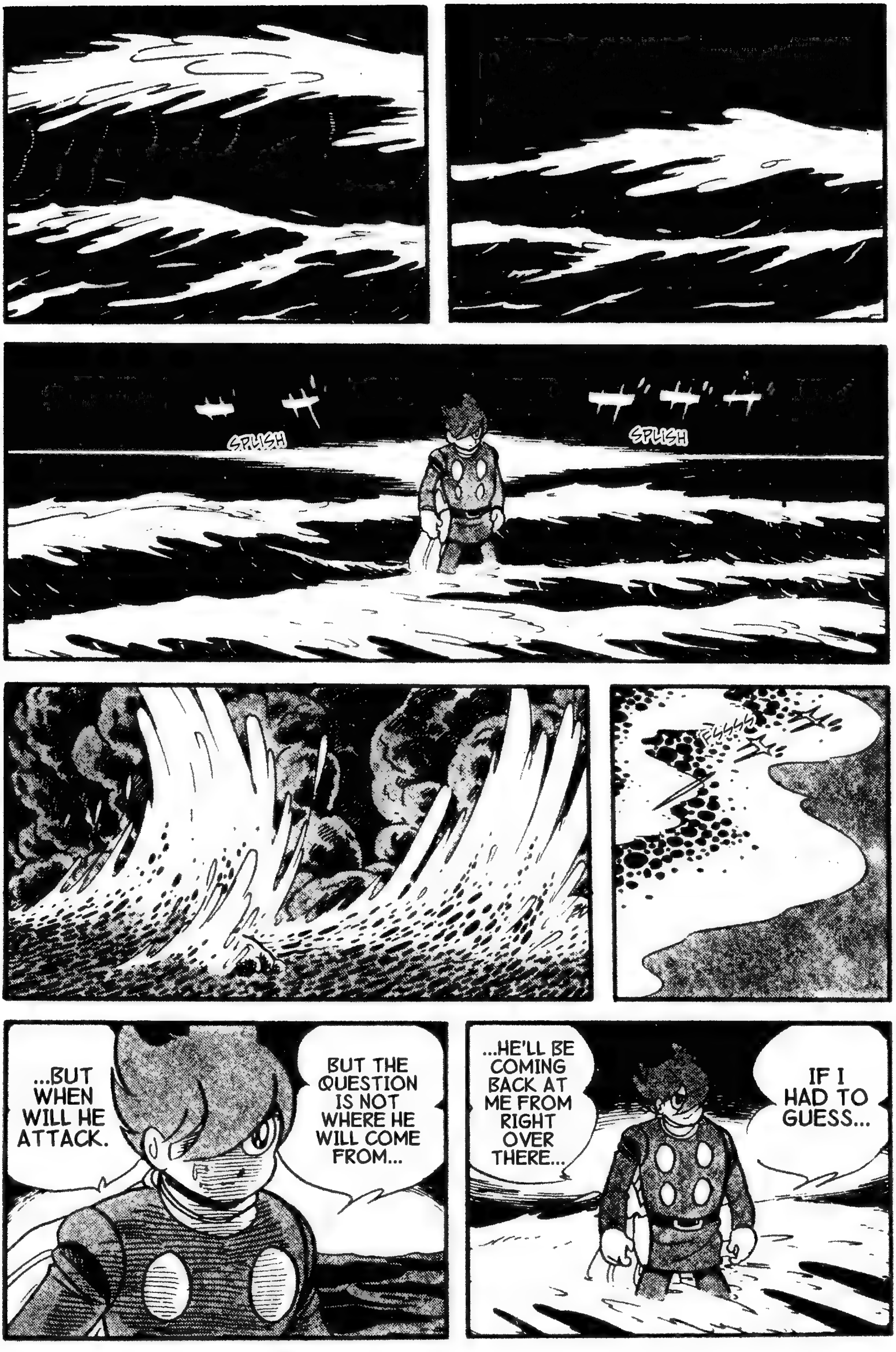

DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
TIME TO TAKE OFF THE GLOVES.
DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
SO WE MEET AGAIN, LAD.
YOU'VE REALLY BECOME QUITE THE PEST.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU SEE ME.

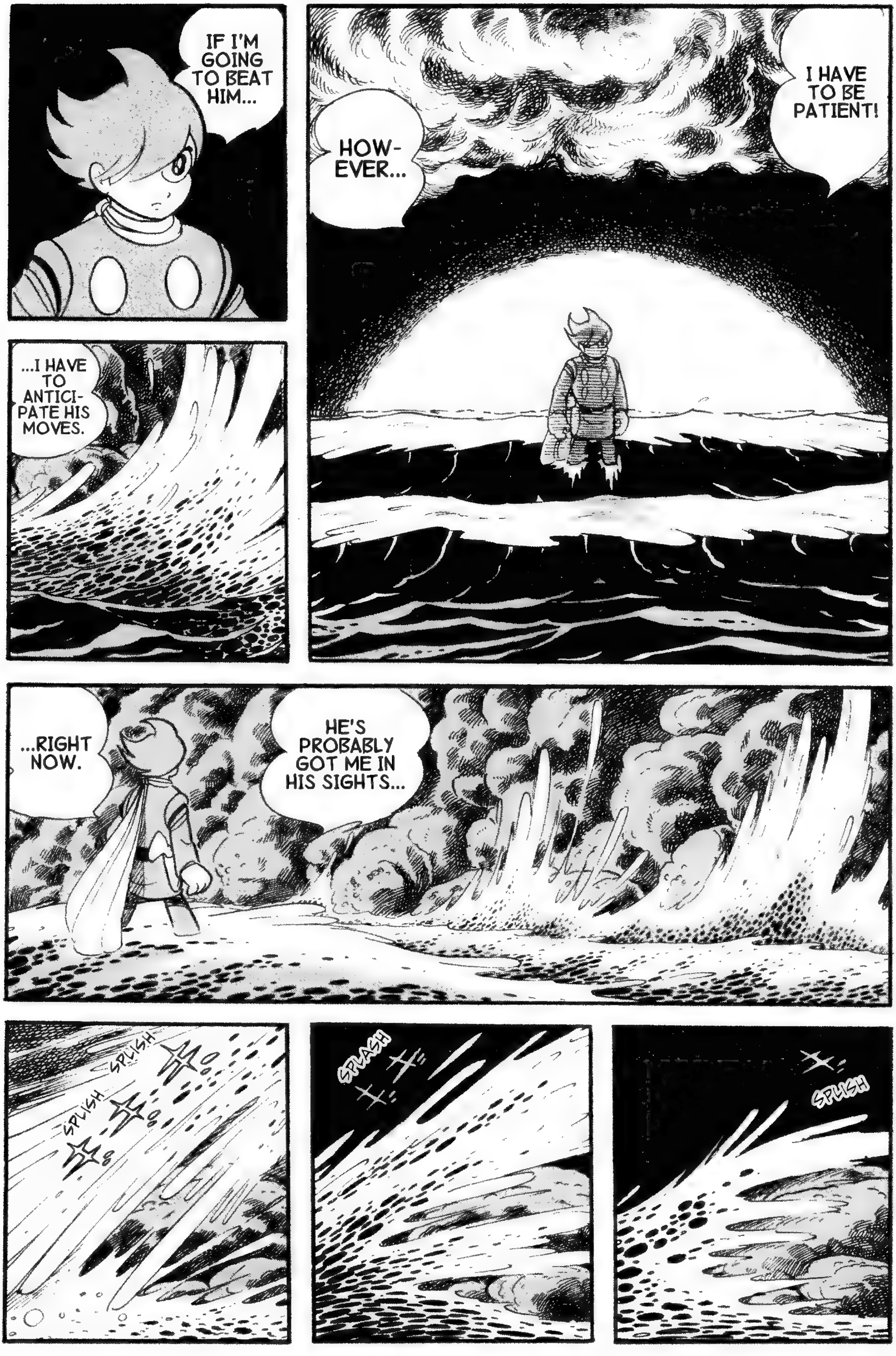

CHIK
カチ
SHUUU
SHUUU
SHUUU
GLOOP
GLOOP
SSSS
SSSS
CHIK
カチ
HMM, AN ACCELERATION SWITCH!

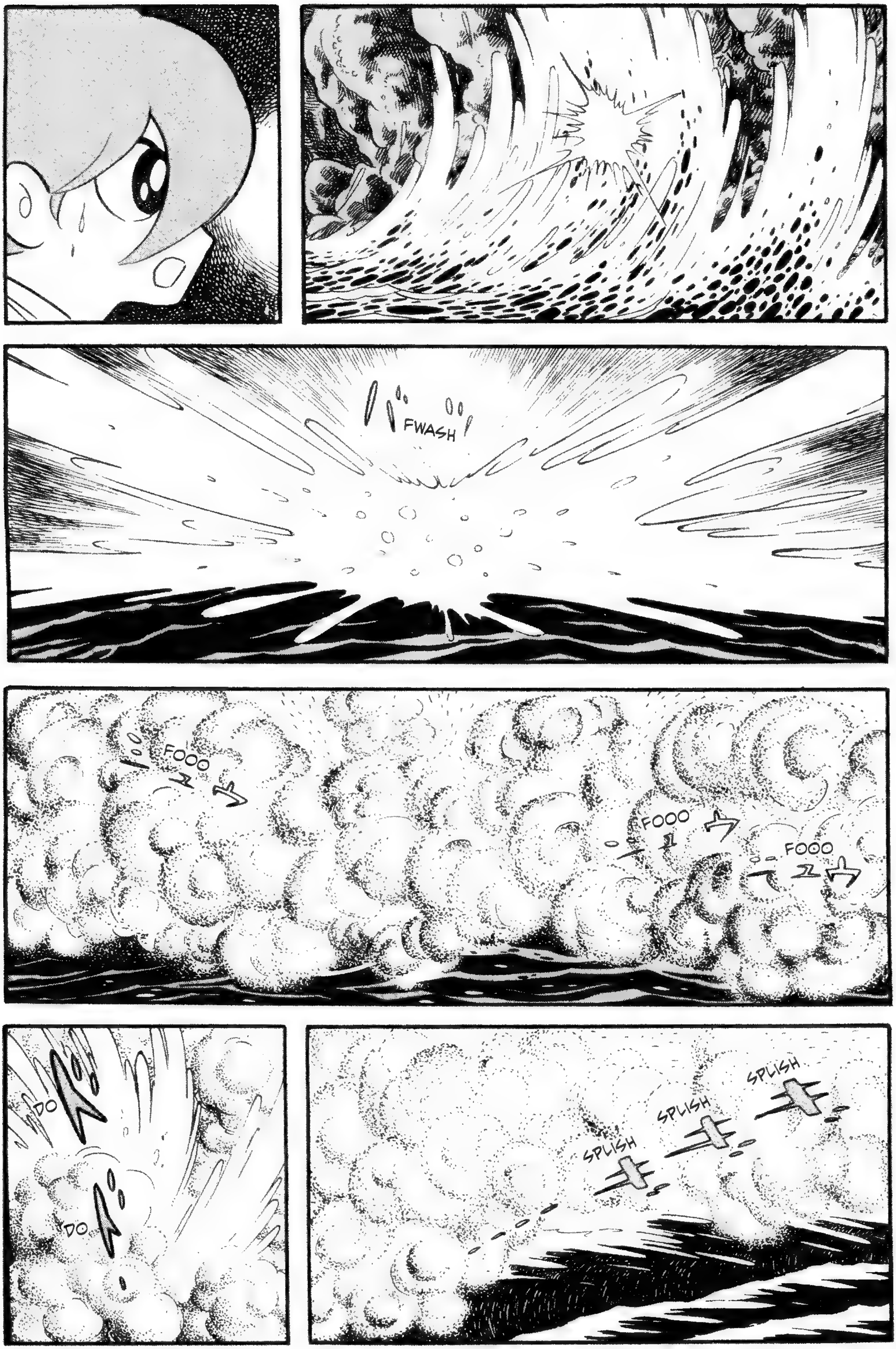

SHUUU
BEEOOO
BWA HA HA!
ZZZZZZZT
ZZZZZZZZT
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
DASH
BUT CAN HE RELEASE IT?
HUH?
HE ABSORBED MY BLAST!
UH?
SHUU

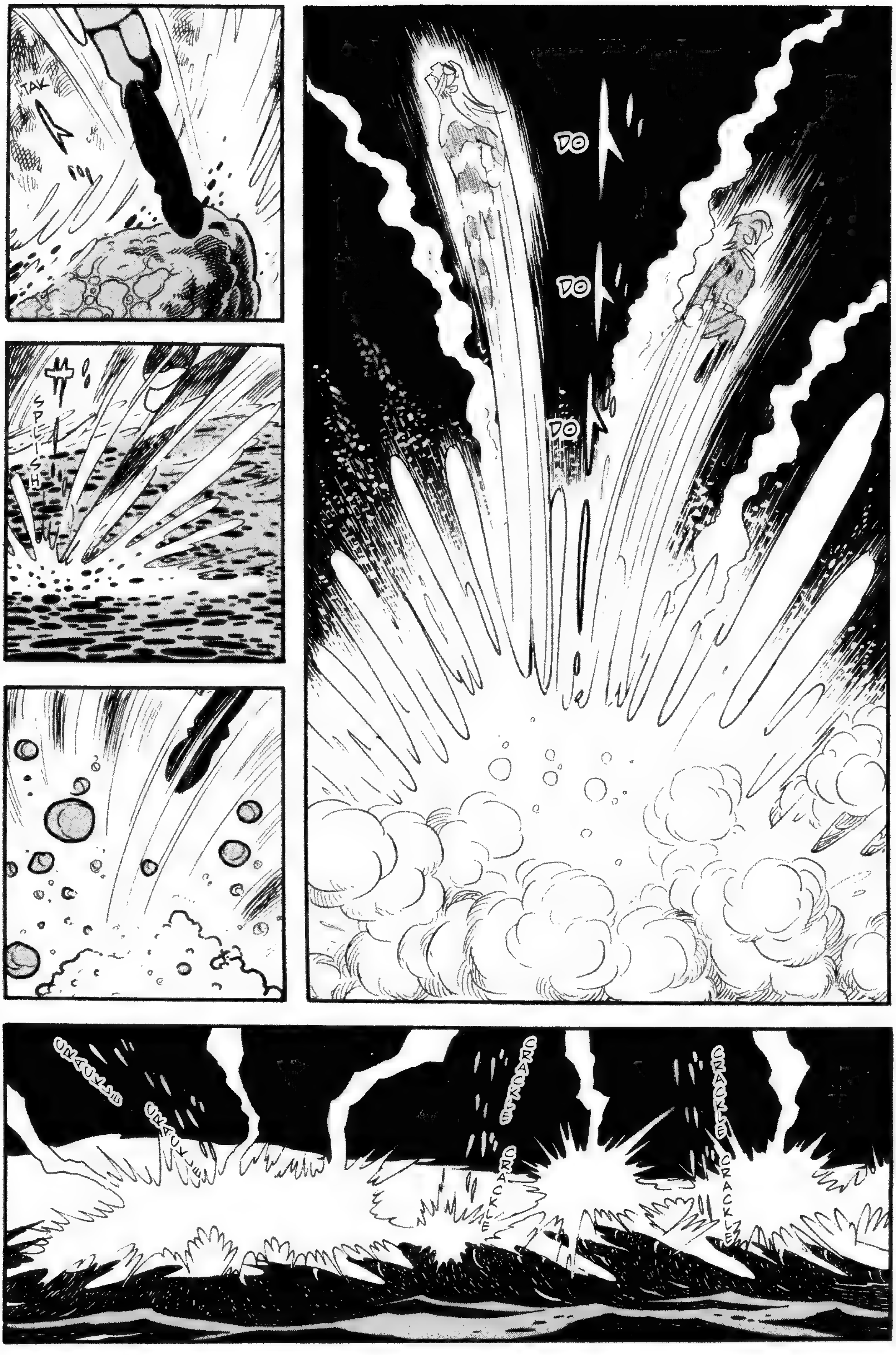

HIS ARM...
SHUU
SHUU
SHUU
WHOA!
IT'S FLICKERING ALL AROUND ME!
ALL I CAN SEE IS THE PATTERN OF HIS CLOTHING!
HE'S GONE!
HUH?!

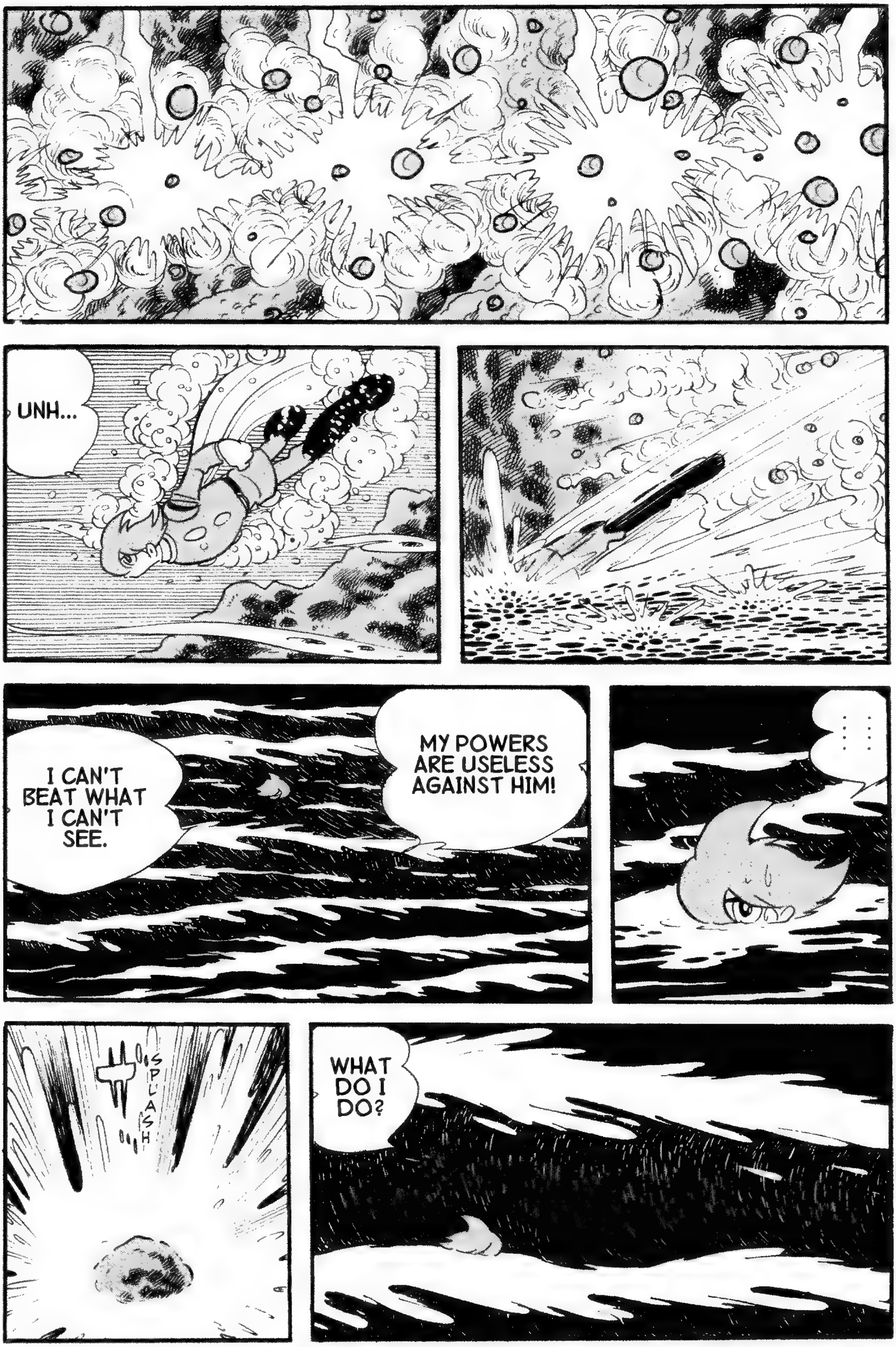

UWAH!
SWISH
PSSSSS
FWOOOSH
I FEEL LIKE... LIKE I'M LOSING MY MIND!
I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN.

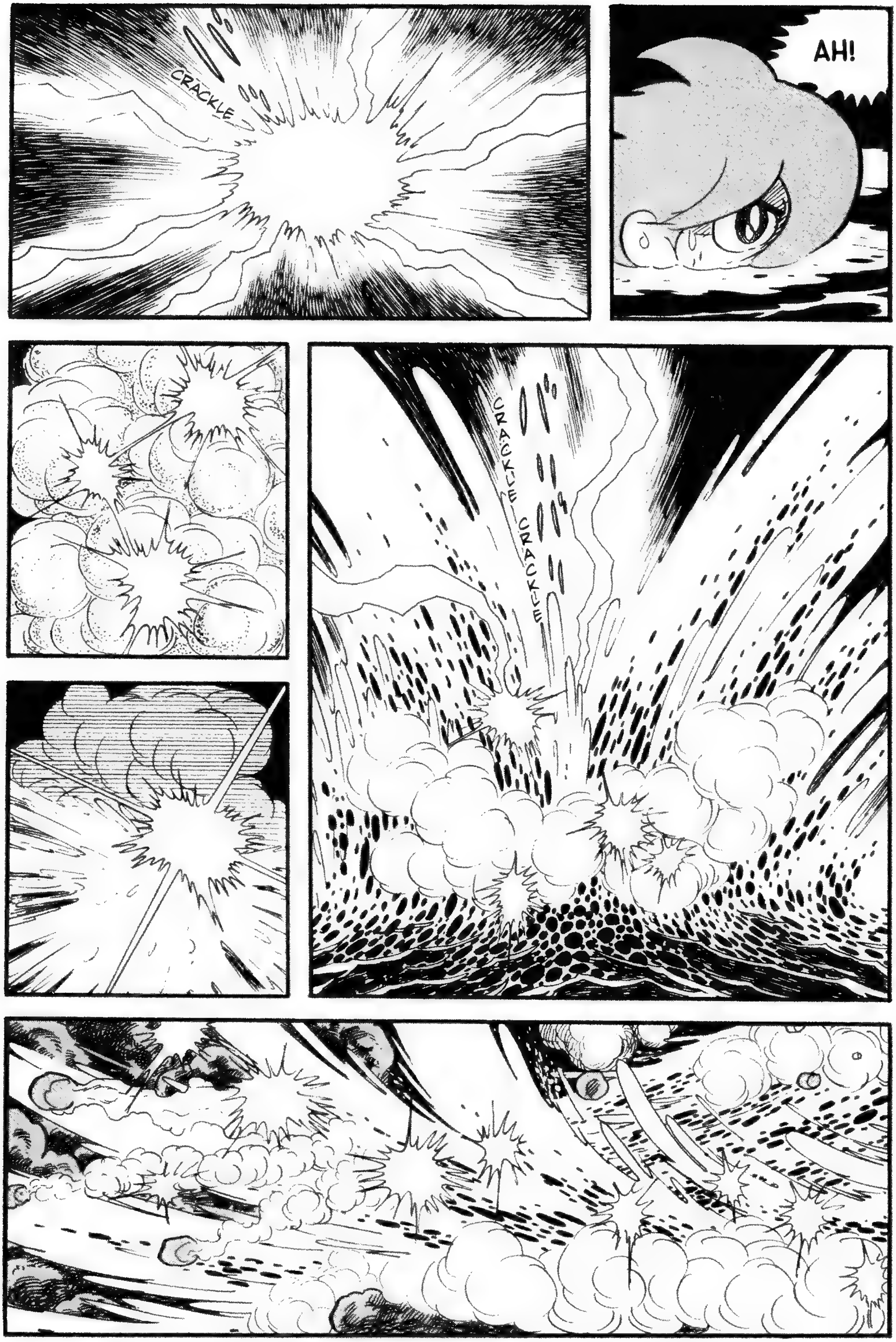

SPLISH
SPLISH
FSSSS
IF I HAD TO GUESS...
...HE'LL BE COMING BACK AT ME FROM RIGHT OVER THERE...
BUT THE QUESTION IS NOT WHERE HE WILL COME FROM...
...BUT WHEN WILL HE ATTACK.

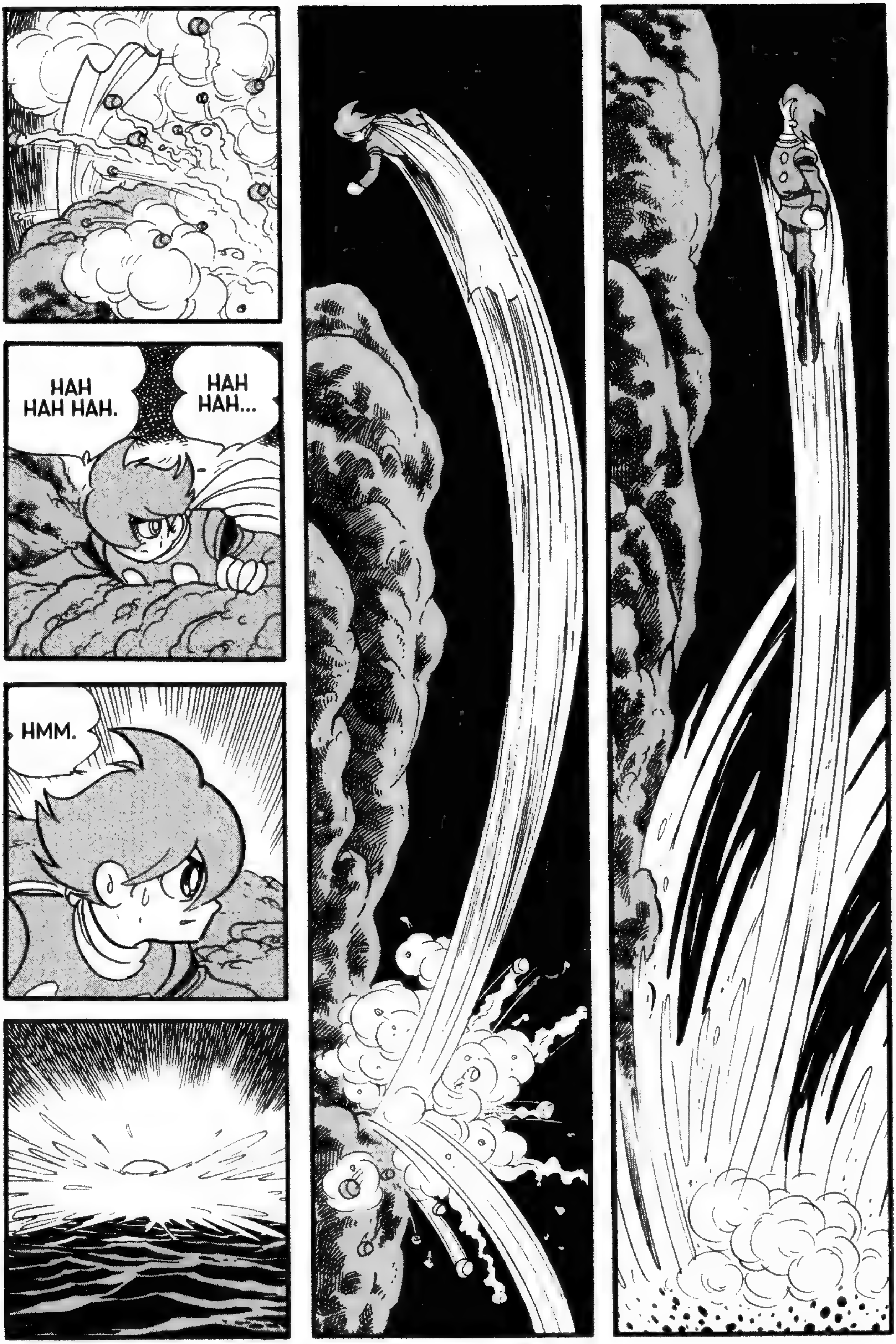

IF I'M GOING TO BEAT HIM...
...I HAVE TO ANTICIPATE HIS MOVES.
HOWEVER...
I HAVE TO BE PATIENT!
HE'S PROBABLY GOT ME IN HIS SIGHTS...
...RIGHT NOW.
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLASH
SPLISH

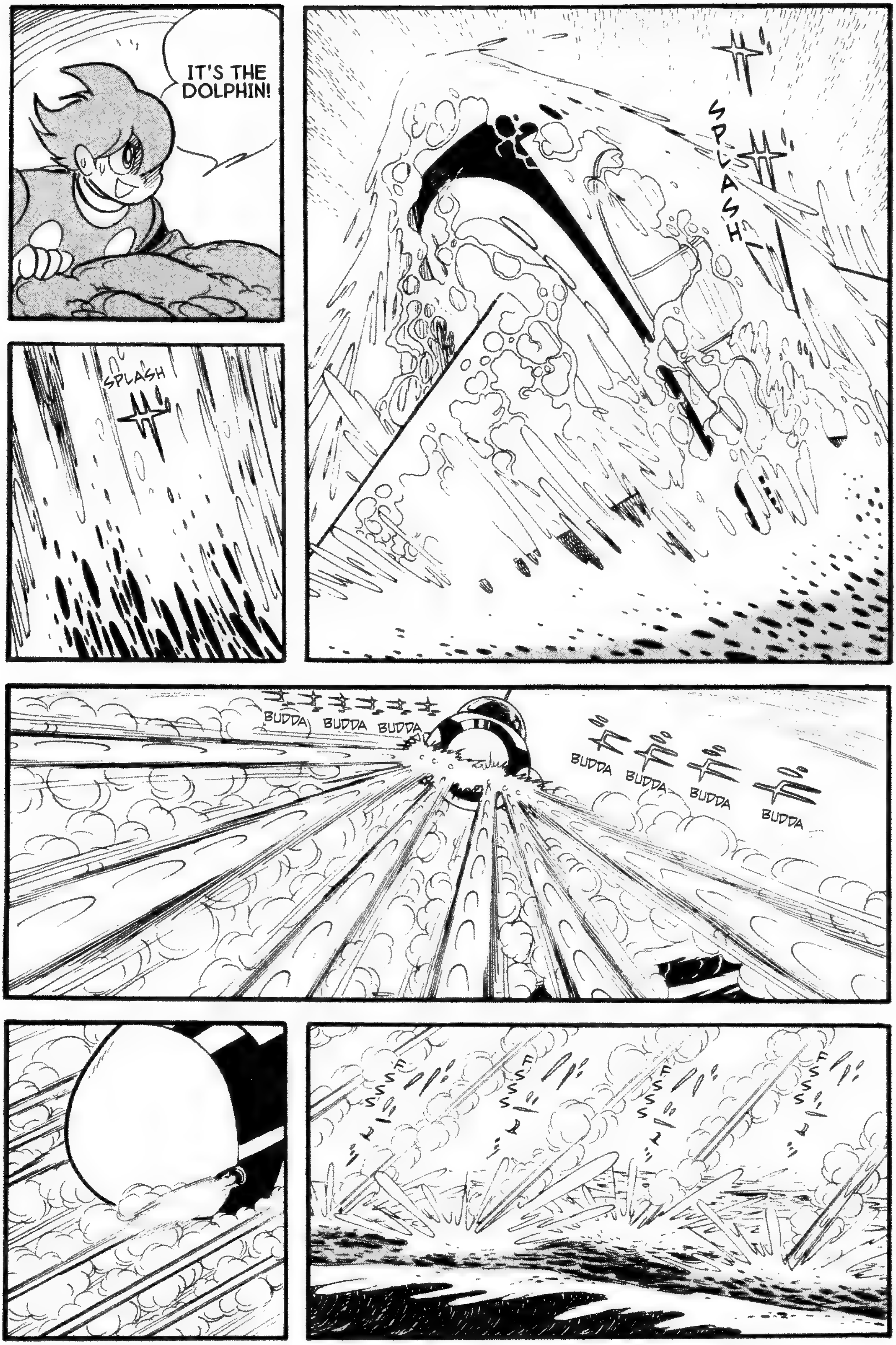

FWASH
FOOO
FOOO
FOOO
DO
DO
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH

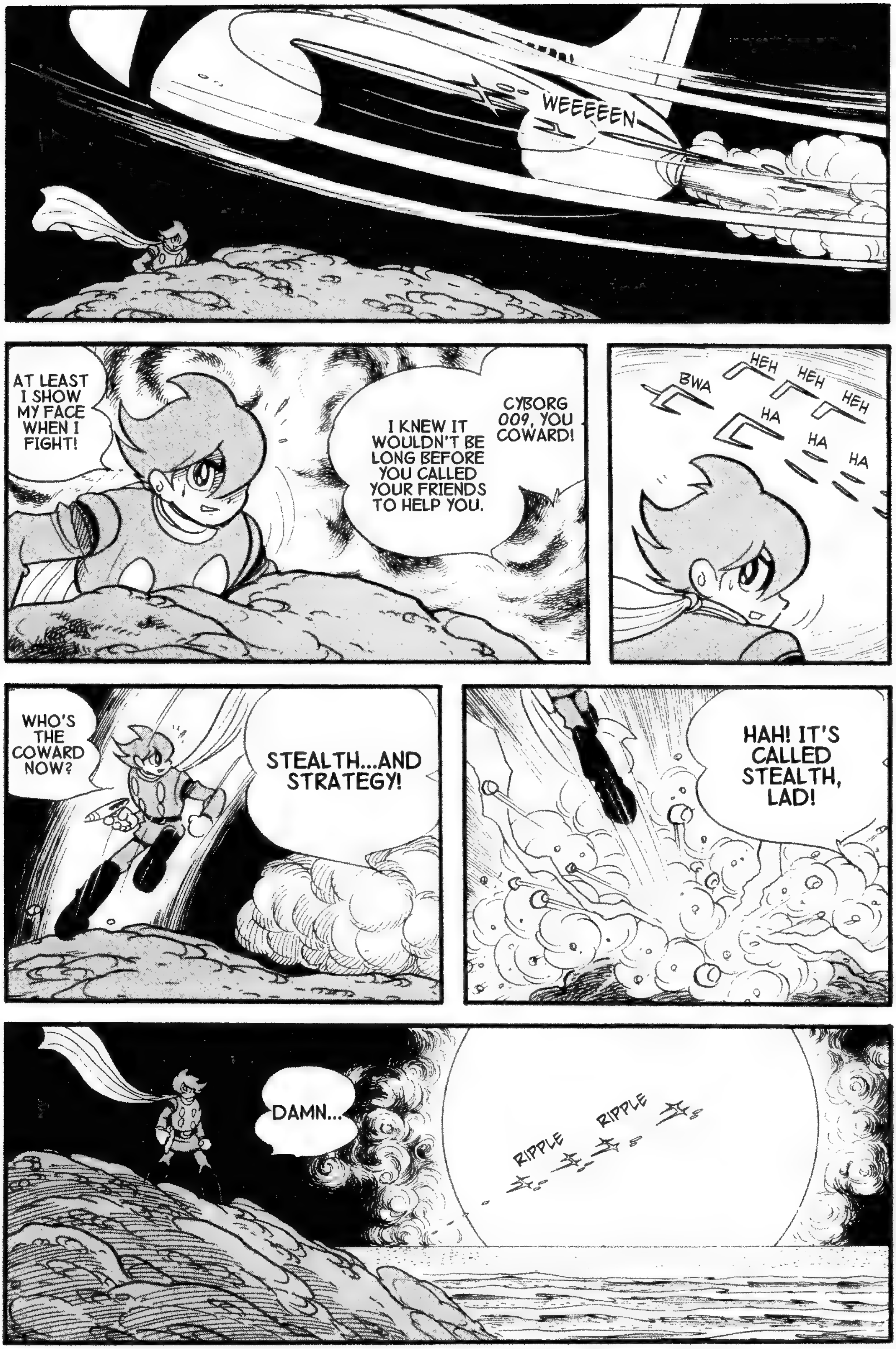

TAK
SPLISH
DO
DO
DO
CRACKLE!!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

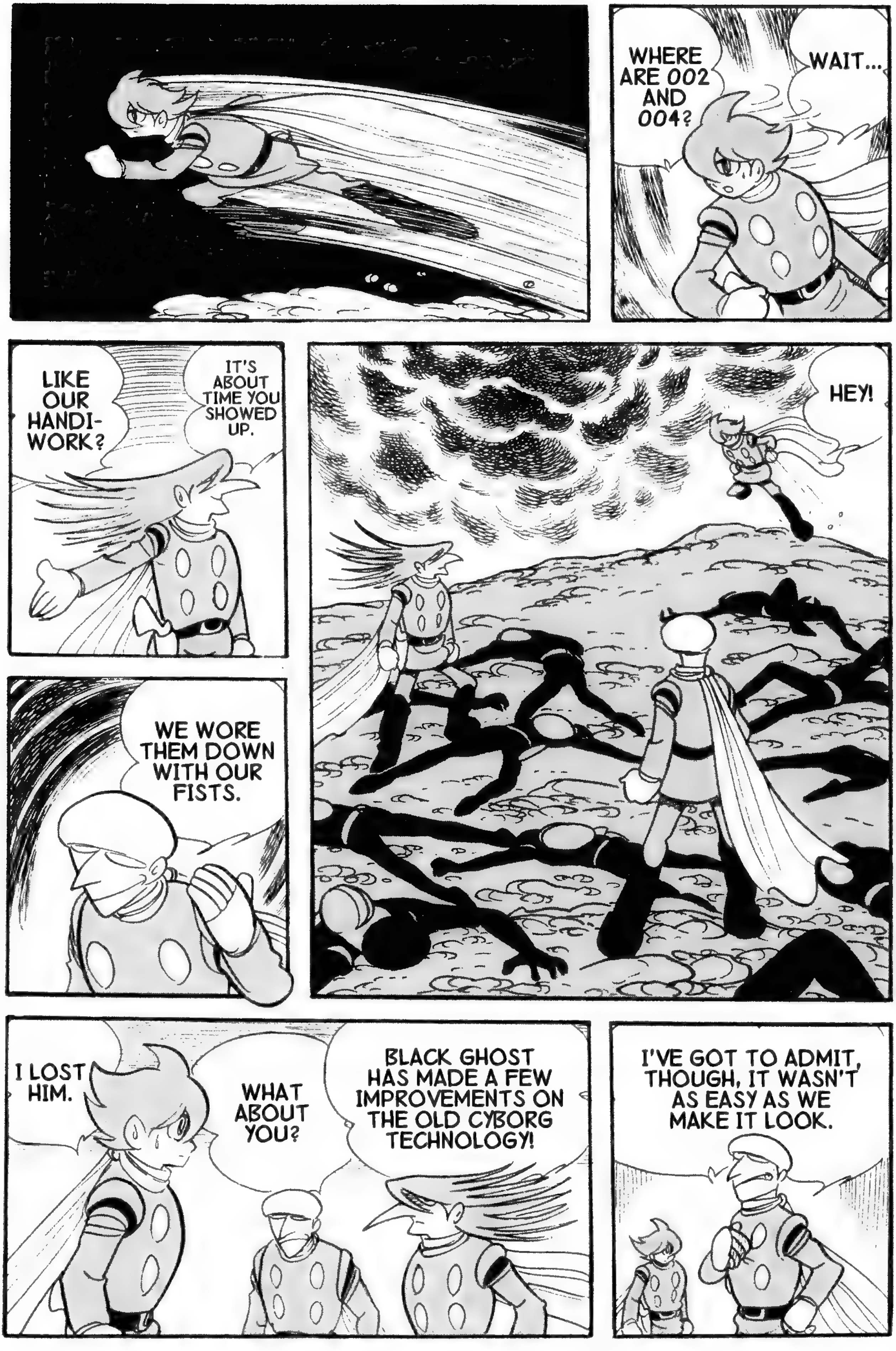

UNH...
I CAN'T BEAT WHAT I CAN'T SEE.
MY POWERS ARE USELESS AGAINST HIM!
......
SPLASH
WHAT DO I DO?

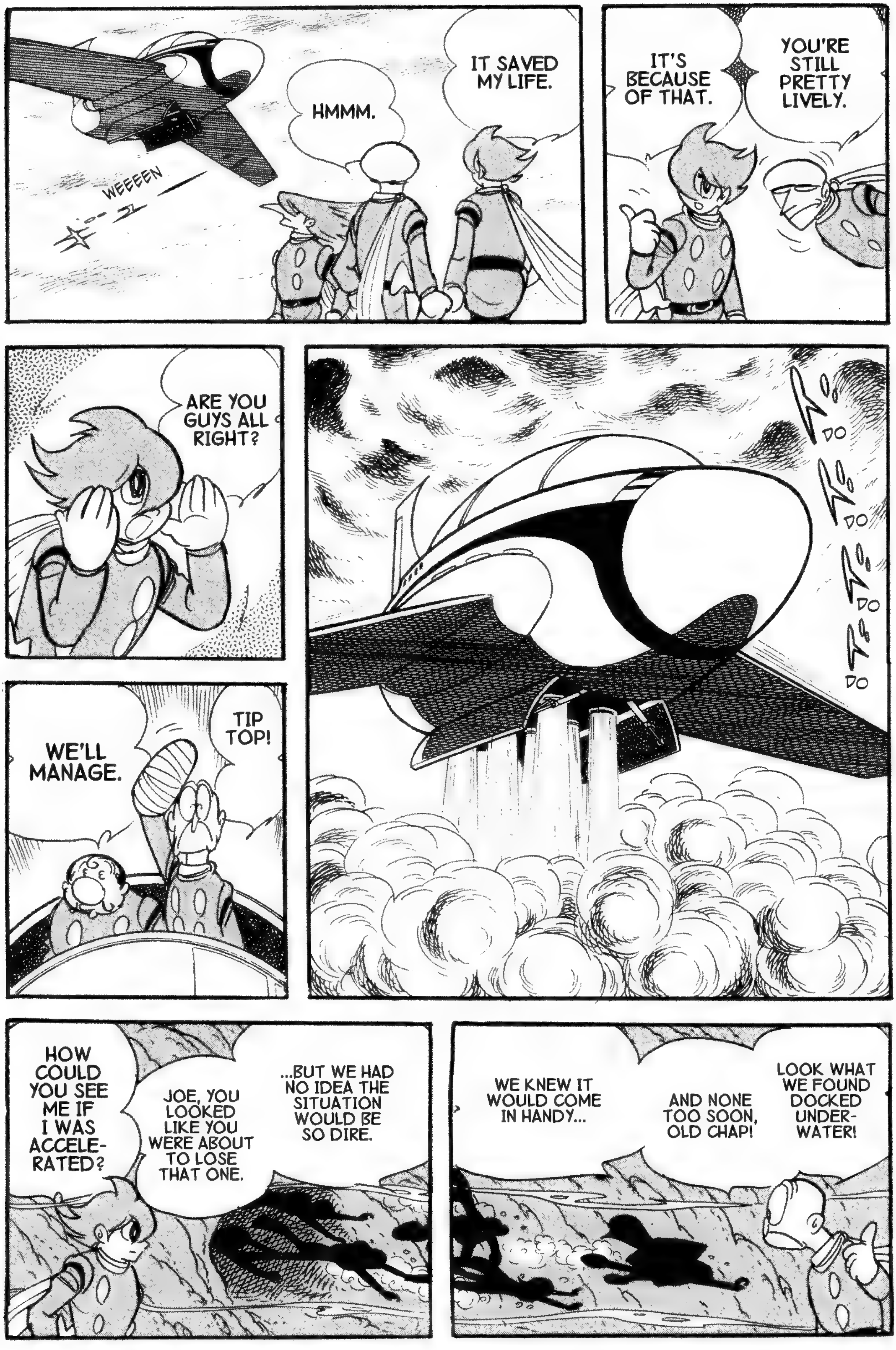

CRACKLE
AH!
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE

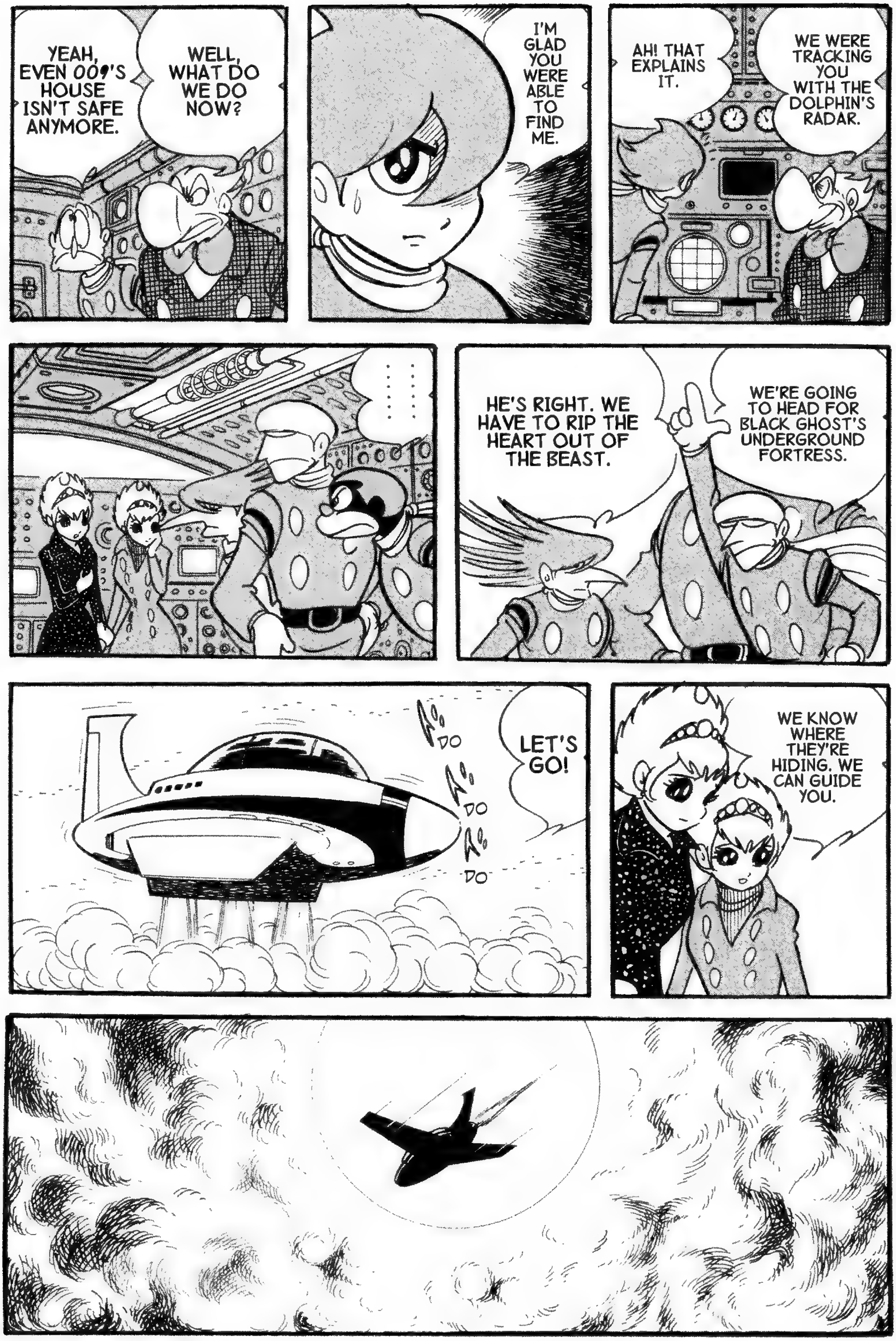

HAH HAH HAH.
HAH HAH...
HMM.


IT'S THE DOLPHIN!
SPLASH
SPLASH!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
FSSS!
FSSS!
FSSS!
FSSS!

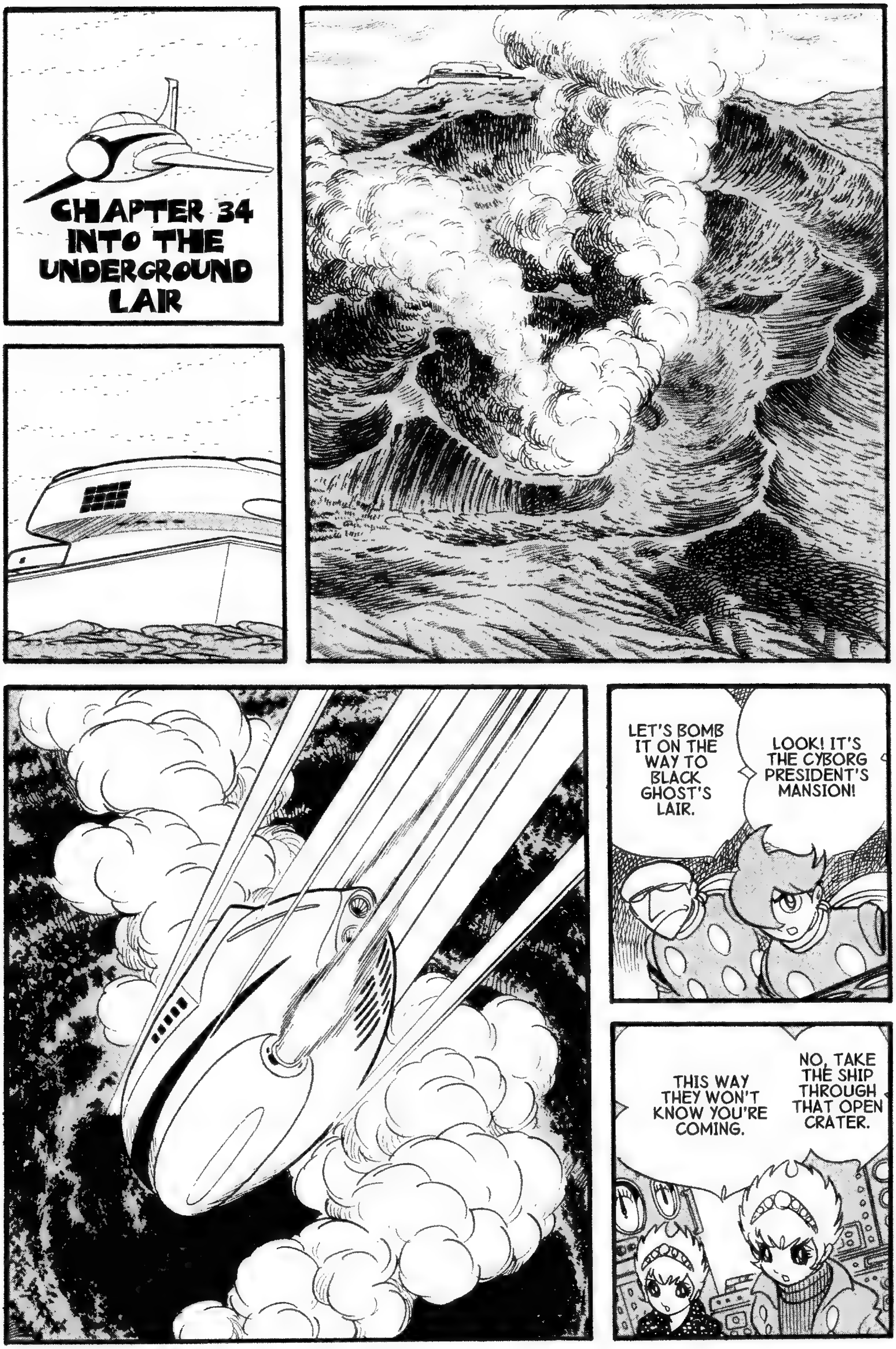

WEEEEEN
CYBORG 009, YOU COWARD!
I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU CALLED YOUR FRIENDS TO HELP YOU.
AT LEAST I SHOW MY FACE WHEN I FIGHT!
BWA HEH HEH HEH HA HA HA
STEALTH...AND STRATEGY!
WHO'S THE COWARD NOW?
HAH! IT'S CALLED STEALTH, LAD!
DAMN...
RIPPLE RIPPLE

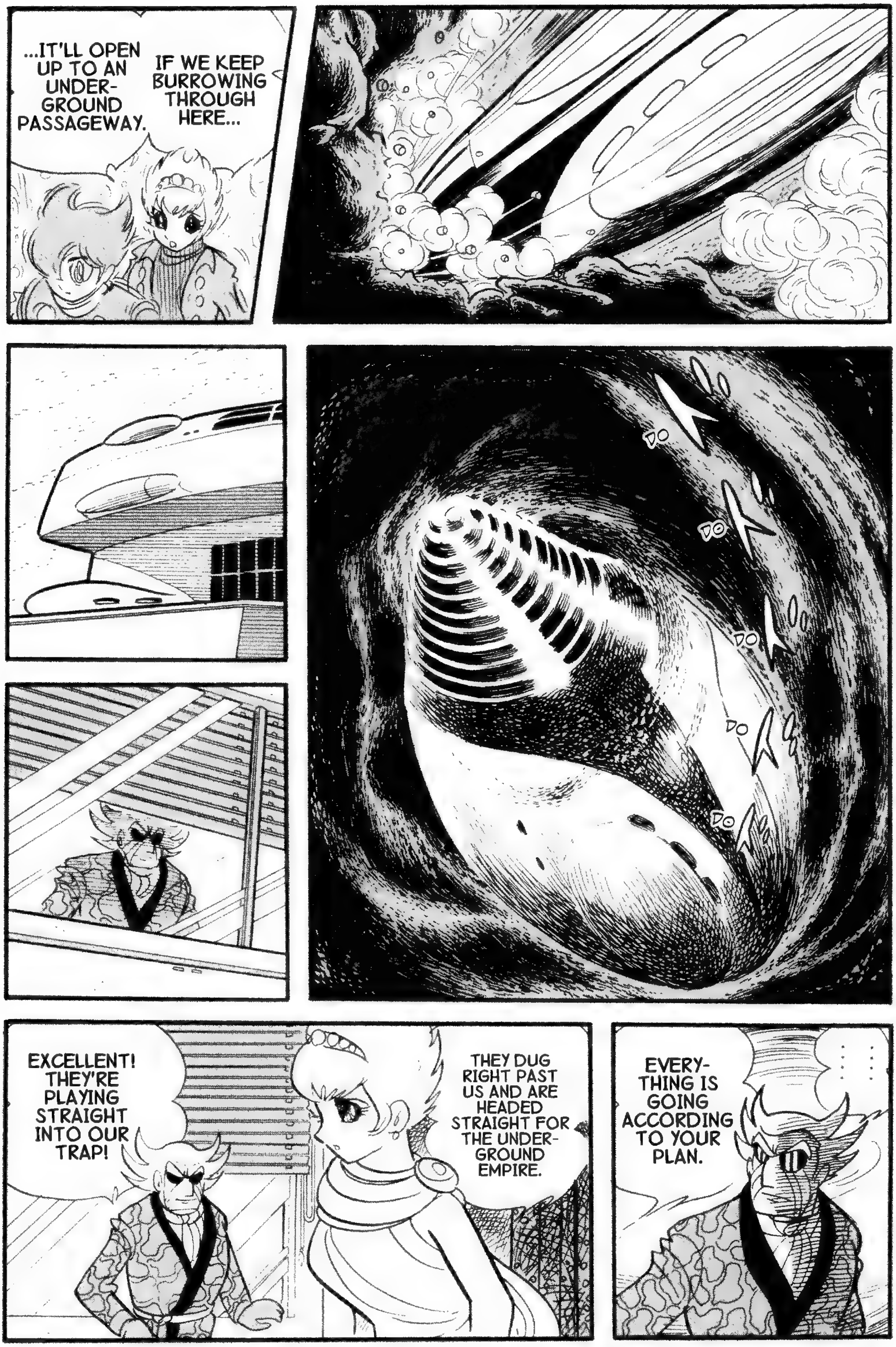

WHERE ARE 002 AND 004?
WAIT...
HEY!
LIKE OUR HANDIWORK?
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP.
WE WORE THEM DOWN WITH OUR FISTS.
I LOST HIM.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
BLACK GHOST HAS MADE A FEW IMPROVEMENTS ON THE OLD CYBORG TECHNOLOGY!
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, THOUGH, IT WASN'T AS EASY AS WE MAKE IT LOOK.

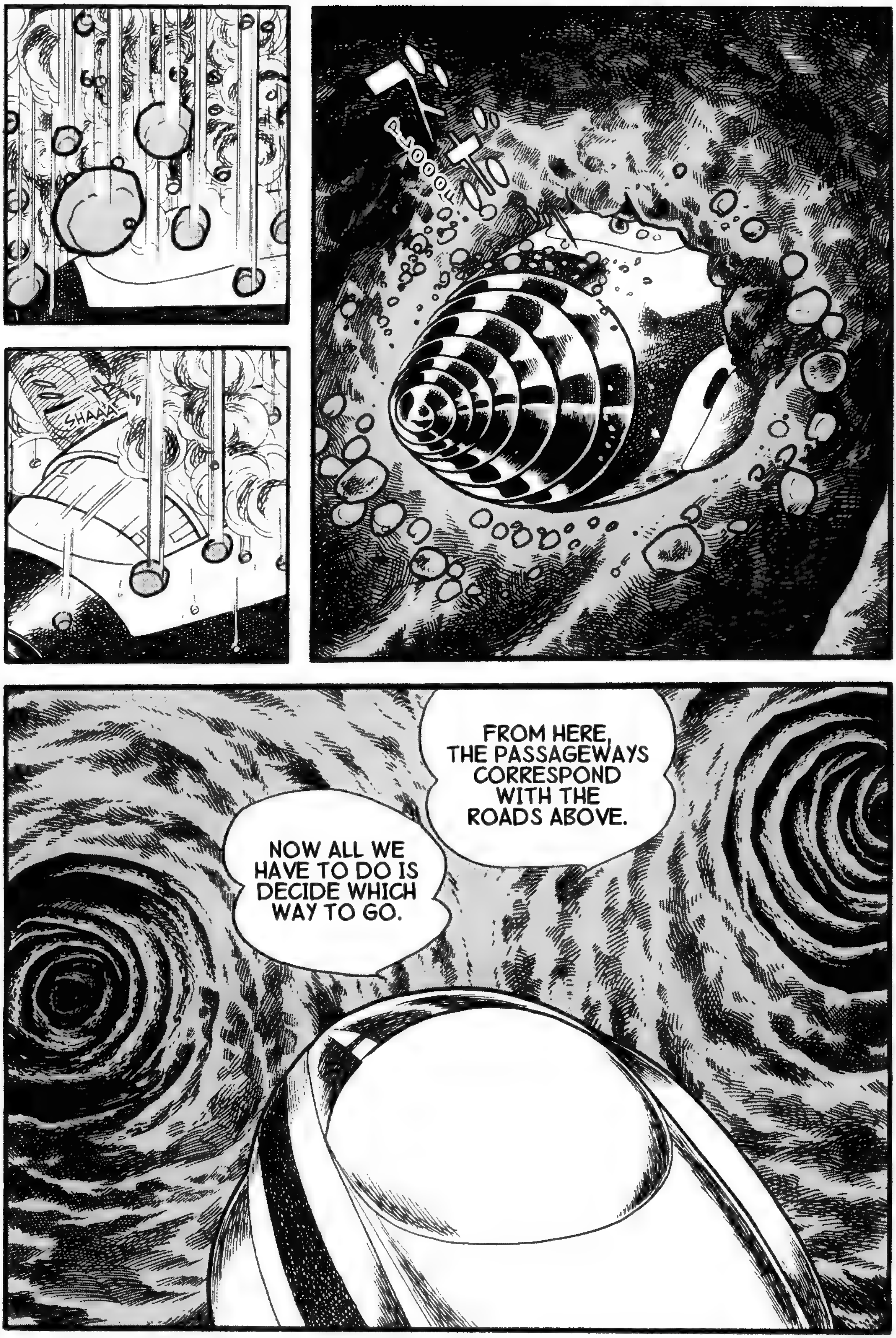

YOU'RE STILL PRETTY LIVELY.
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT.
IT SAVED MY LIFE.
HMMM.
WEEEEN
DO
DO
DO
DO
ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?
TIP TOP!
WE'LL MANAGE.
LOOK WHAT WE FOUND DOCKED UNDER-WATER!
AND NONE TOO SOON, OLD CHAP!
WE KNEW IT WOULD COME IN HANDY...
...BUT WE HAD NO IDEA THE SITUATION WOULD BE SO DIRE.
JOE, YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO LOSE THAT ONE.
HOW COULD YOU SEE ME IF I WAS ACCELE-RATED?

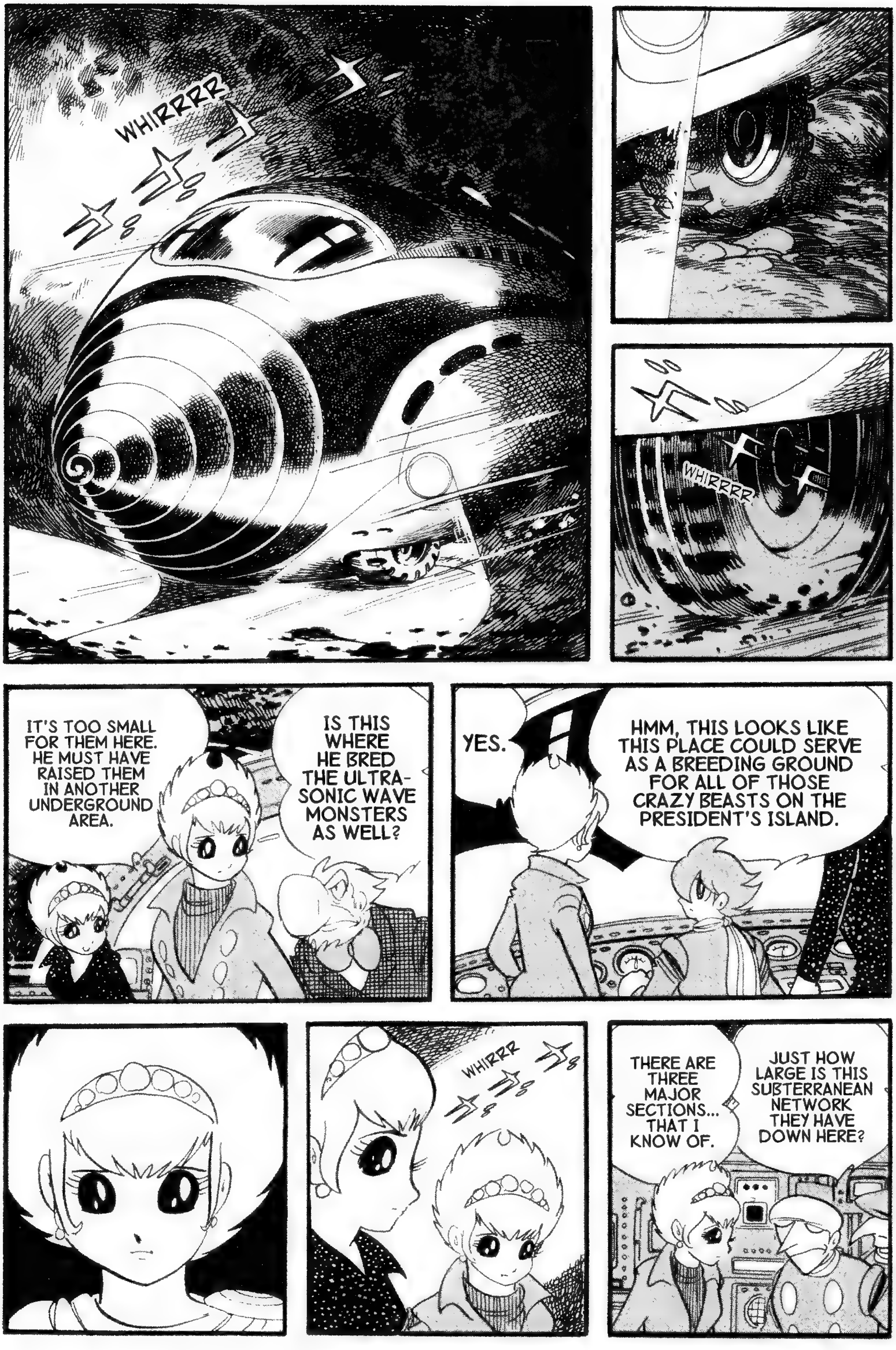

YEAH, EVEN 009'S HOUSE ISN'T SAFE ANYMORE.
WELL, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO FIND ME.
WE WERE TRACKING YOU WITH THE DOLPHIN'S RADAR.
AH! THAT EXPLAINS IT.
......
WE'RE GOING TO HEAD FOR BLACK GHOST'S UNDERGROUND FORTRESS.
HE'S RIGHT. WE HAVE TO RIP THE HEART OUT OF THE BEAST.
LET'S GO!
DO
DO
DO
WE KNOW WHERE THEY'RE HIDING. WE CAN GUIDE YOU.

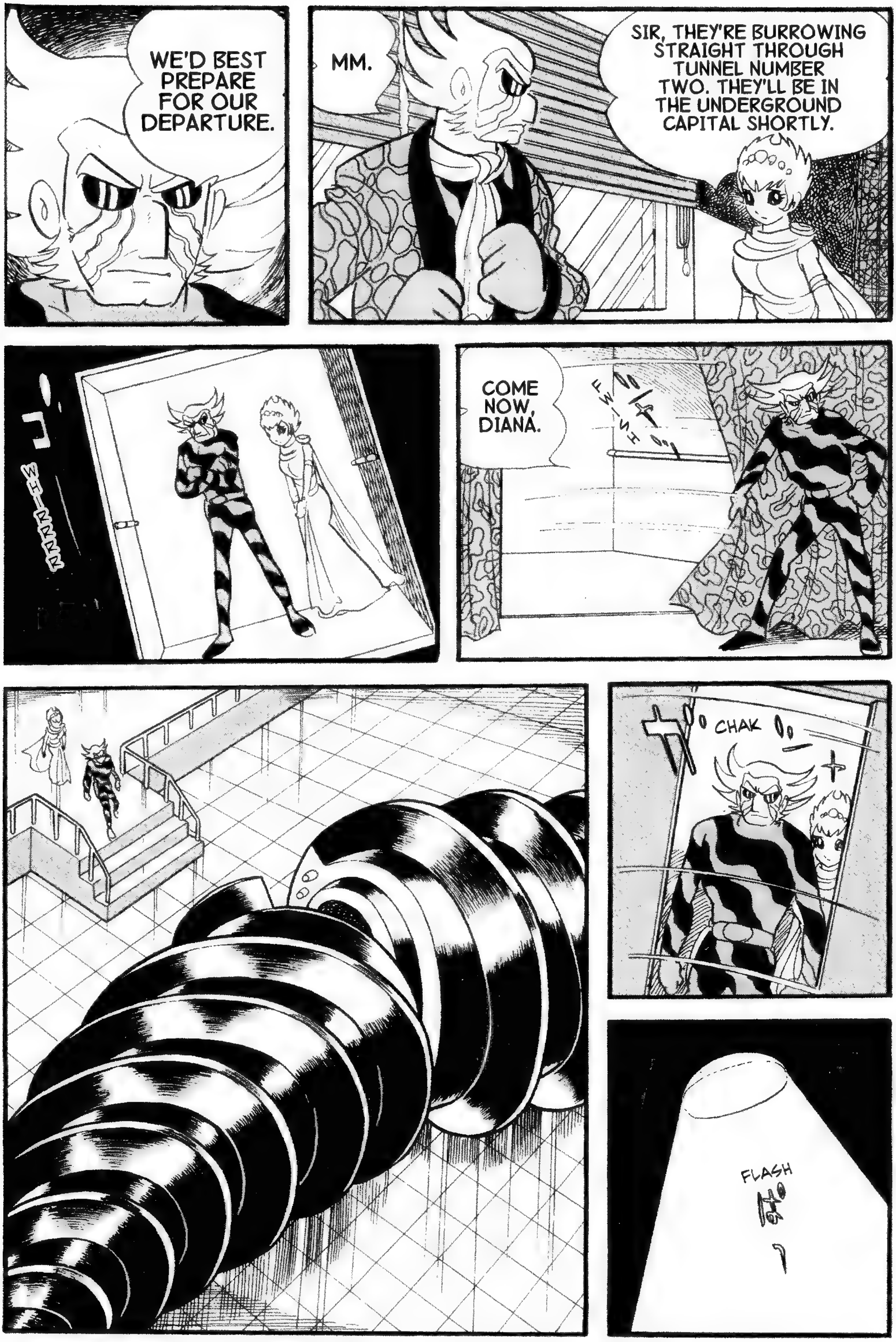
CHAPTER 34
INTO THE UNDERGROUND LAIR

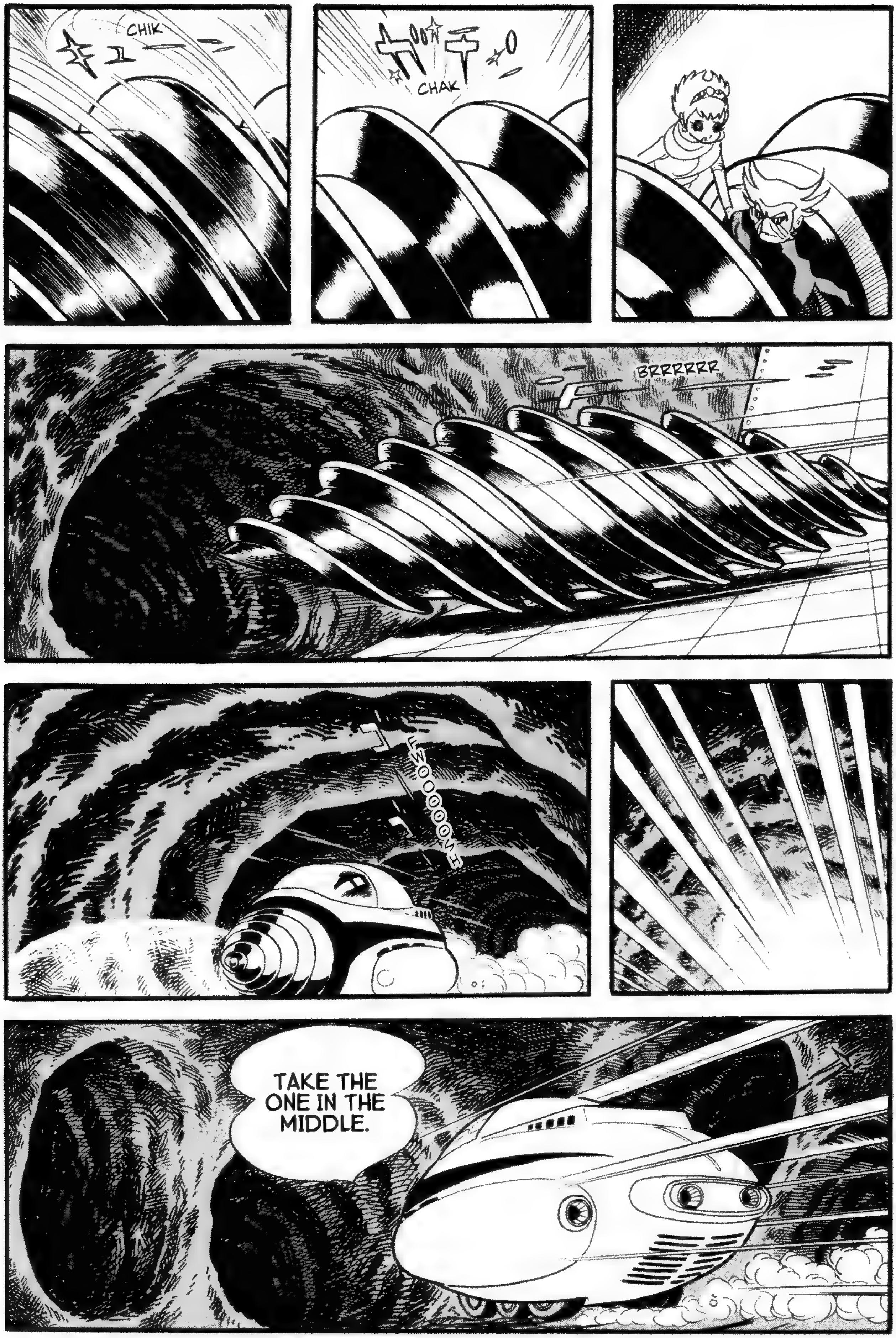

LOOK! IT'S THE CYBORG PRESIDENT'S MANSION!
LET'S BOMB IT ON THE WAY TO BLACK GHOST'S LAIR.
NO, TAKE THE SHIP THROUGH THAT OPEN CRATER.
THIS WAY THEY WON'T KNOW YOU'RE COMING.

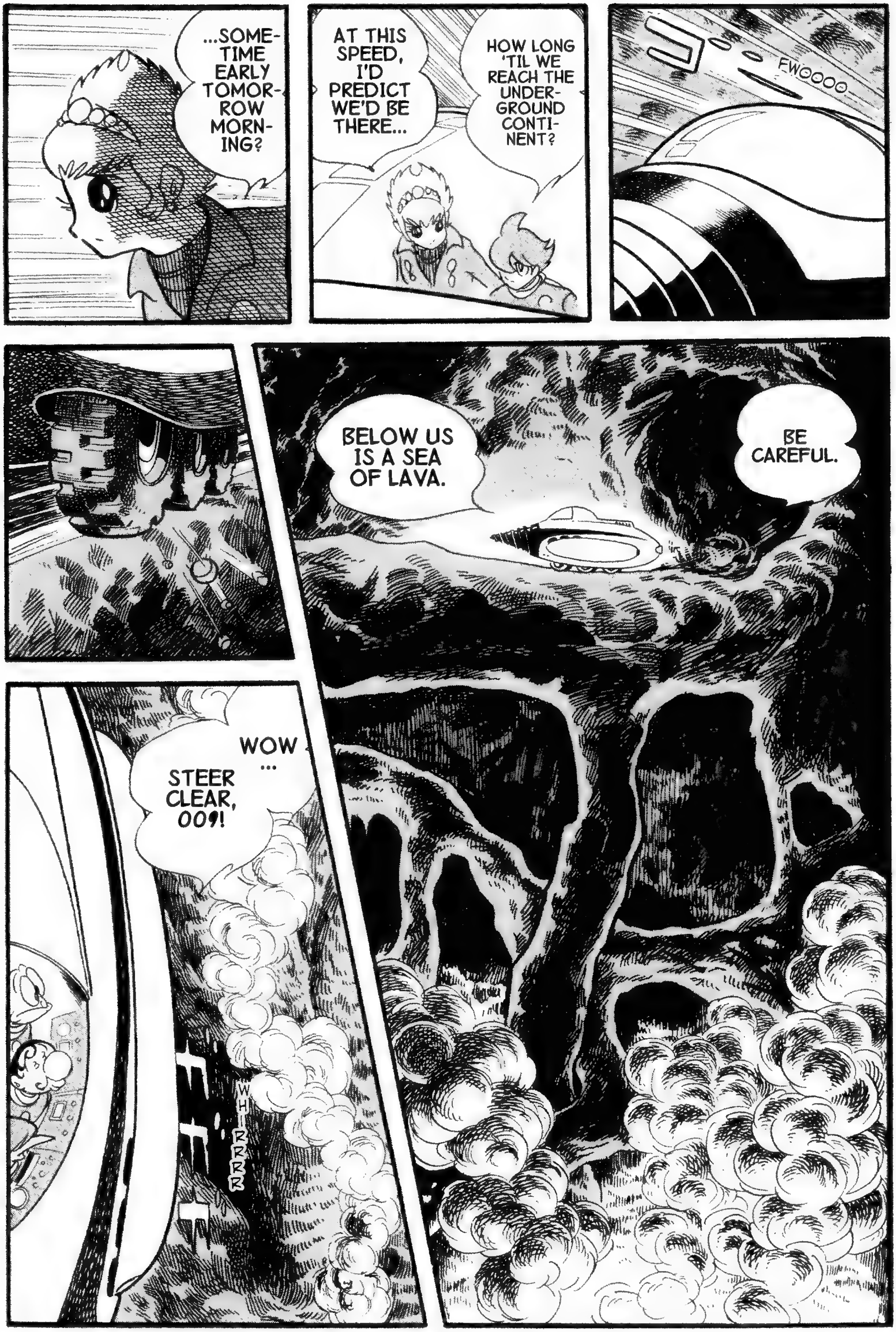

IF WE KEEP BURROWING THROUGH HERE...
...IT'LL OPEN UP TO AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAY.
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
THEY DUG RIGHT PAST US AND ARE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE.
EXCELLENT! THEY'RE PLAYING STRAIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN.
....

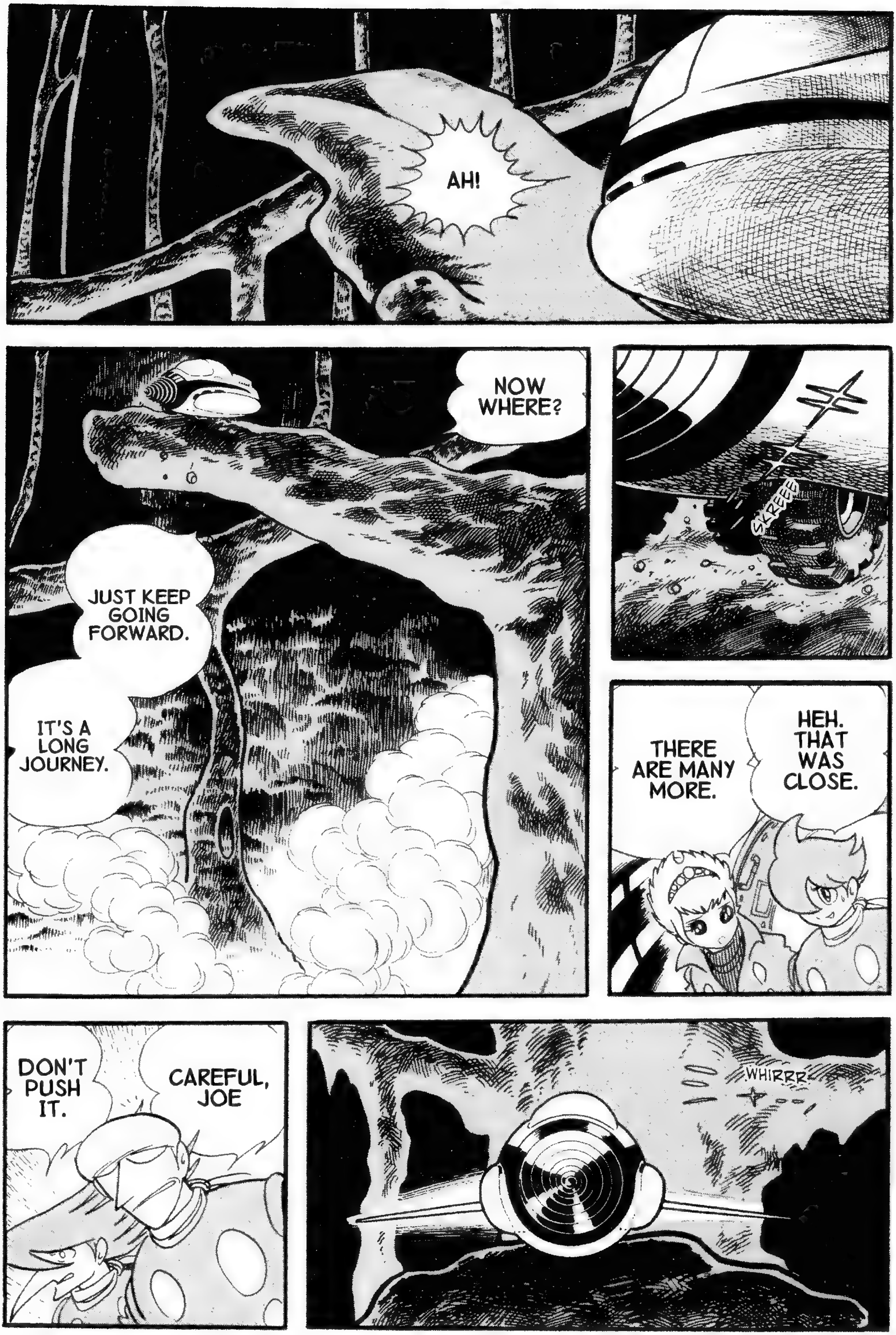

SHAAA
PLOOOH
FROM HERE, THE PASSAGEWAYS CORRESPOND WITH THE ROADS ABOVE.
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DECIDE WHICH WAY TO GO.

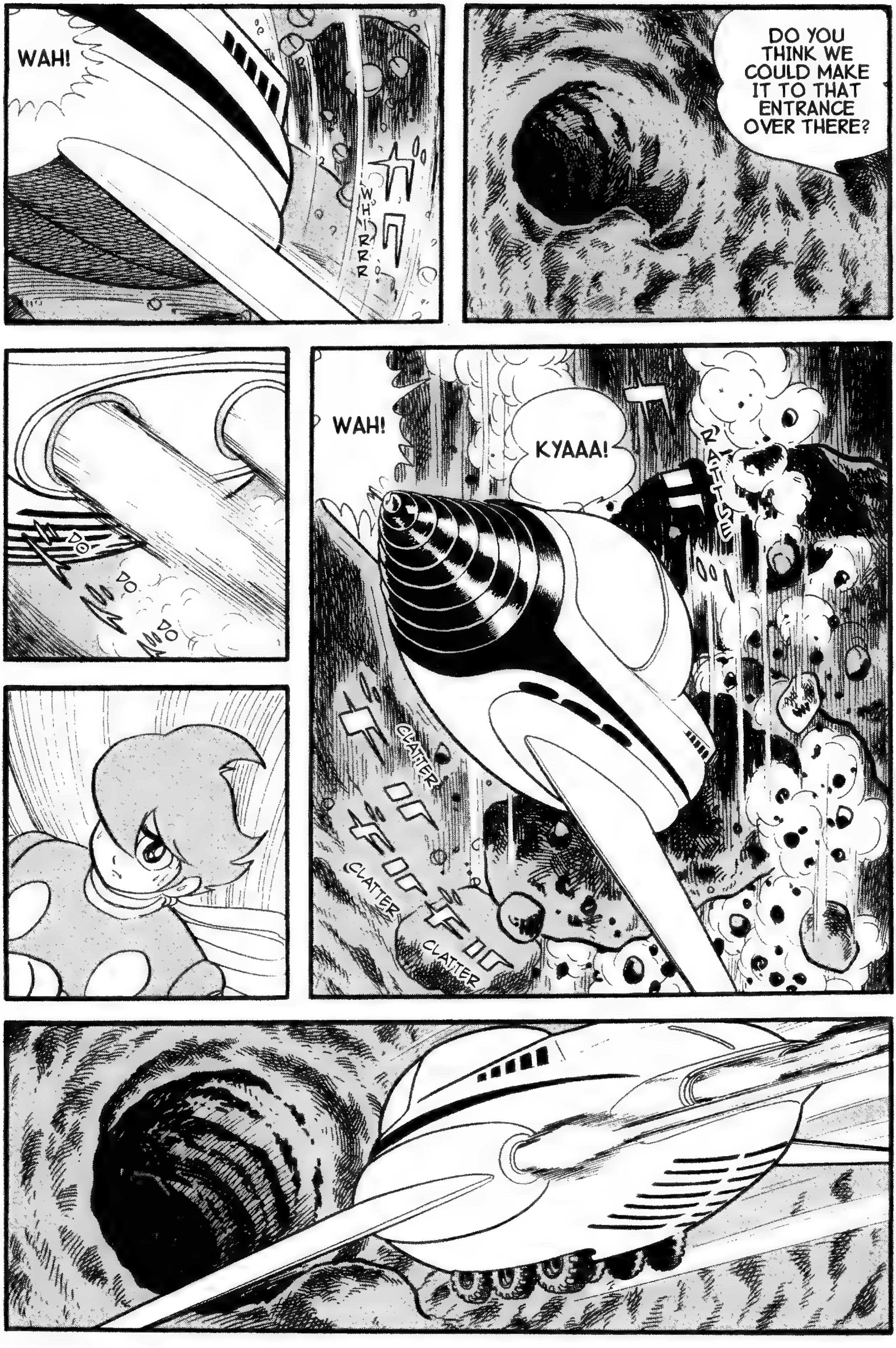

WHIRRRR
WHIRRRR
HMM, THIS LOOKS LIKE THIS PLACE COULD SERVE AS A BREEDING GROUND FOR ALL OF THOSE CRAZY BEASTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ISLAND.
YES.
IS THIS WHERE HE BRED THE ULTRA-SONIC WAVE MONSTERS AS WELL?
IT'S TOO SMALL FOR THEM HERE. HE MUST HAVE RAISED THEM IN ANOTHER UNDERGROUND AREA.
JUST HOW LARGE IS THIS SUBTERRANEAN NETWORK THEY HAVE DOWN HERE?
THERE ARE THREE MAJOR SECTIONS... THAT I KNOW OF.
WHIRRR

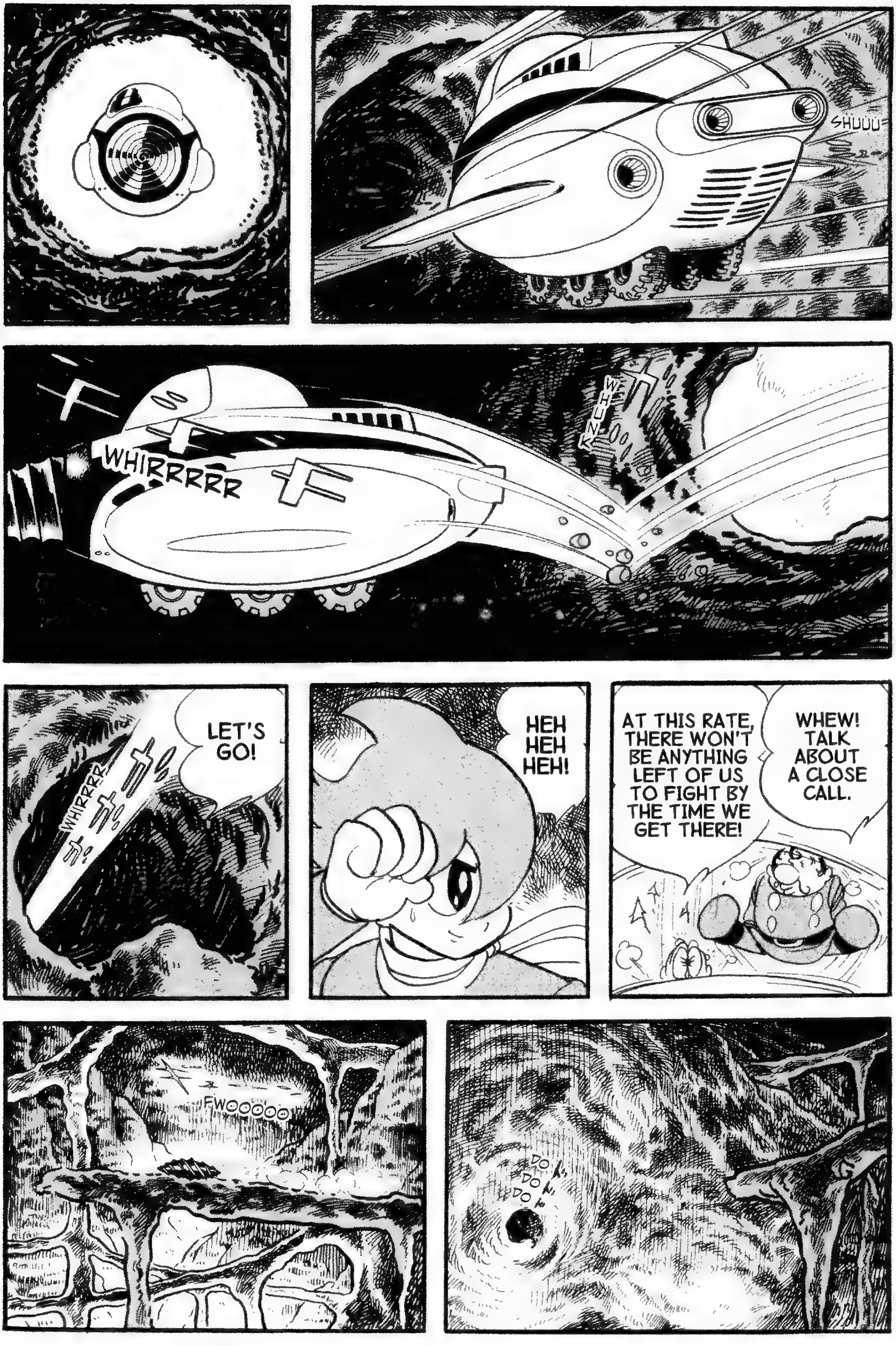

SIR, THEY'RE BURROWING STRAIGHT THROUGH TUNNEL NUMBER TWO. THEY'LL BE IN THE UNDERGROUND CAPITAL SHORTLY.
MM.
WE'D BEST PREPARE FOR OUR DEPARTURE.
COME NOW, DIANA.
FWISH
WHIRRRR
CHAK
FLASH

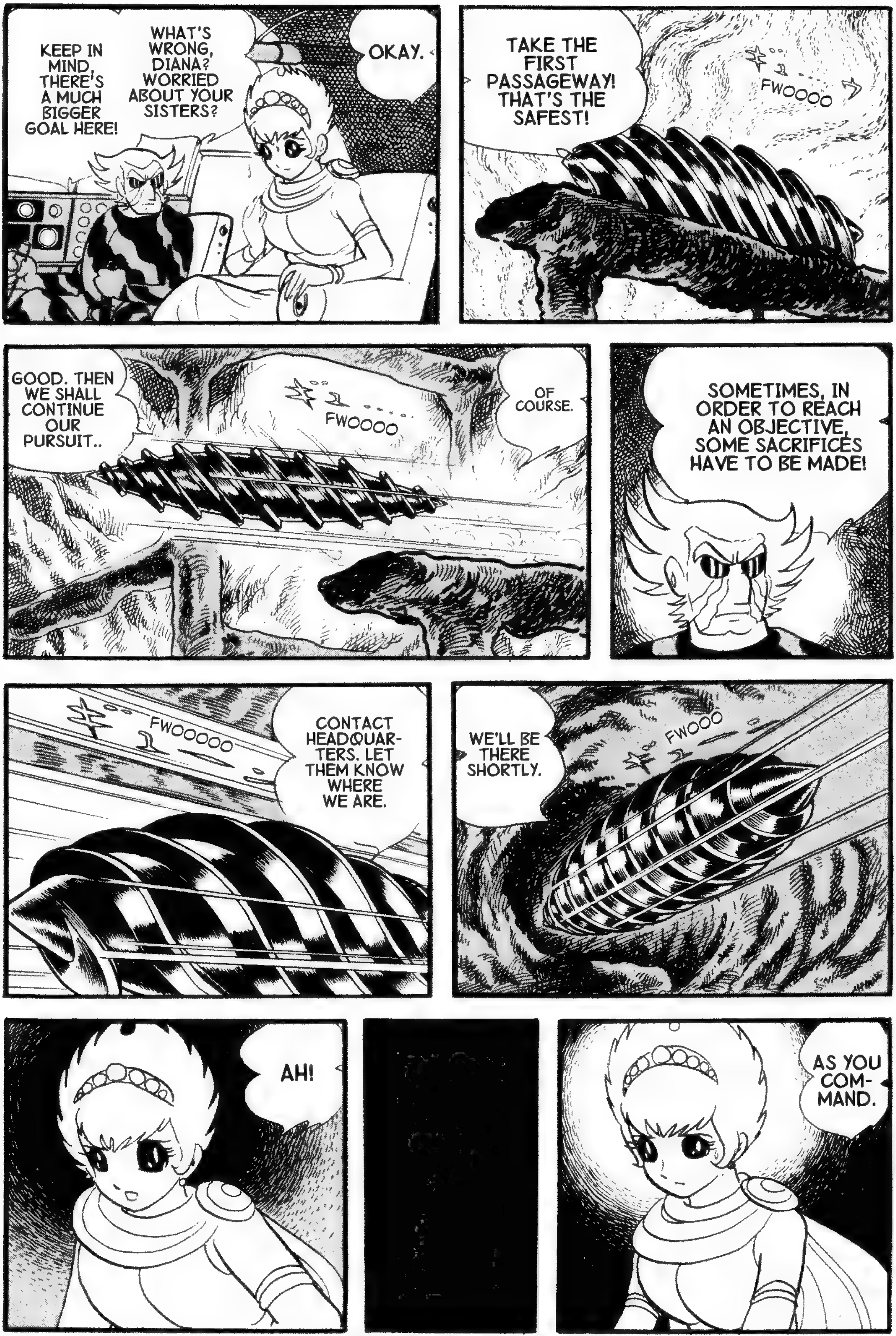

CHIK
CHAK
BRRRRRR
FWOOOOOOH
TAKE THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE.

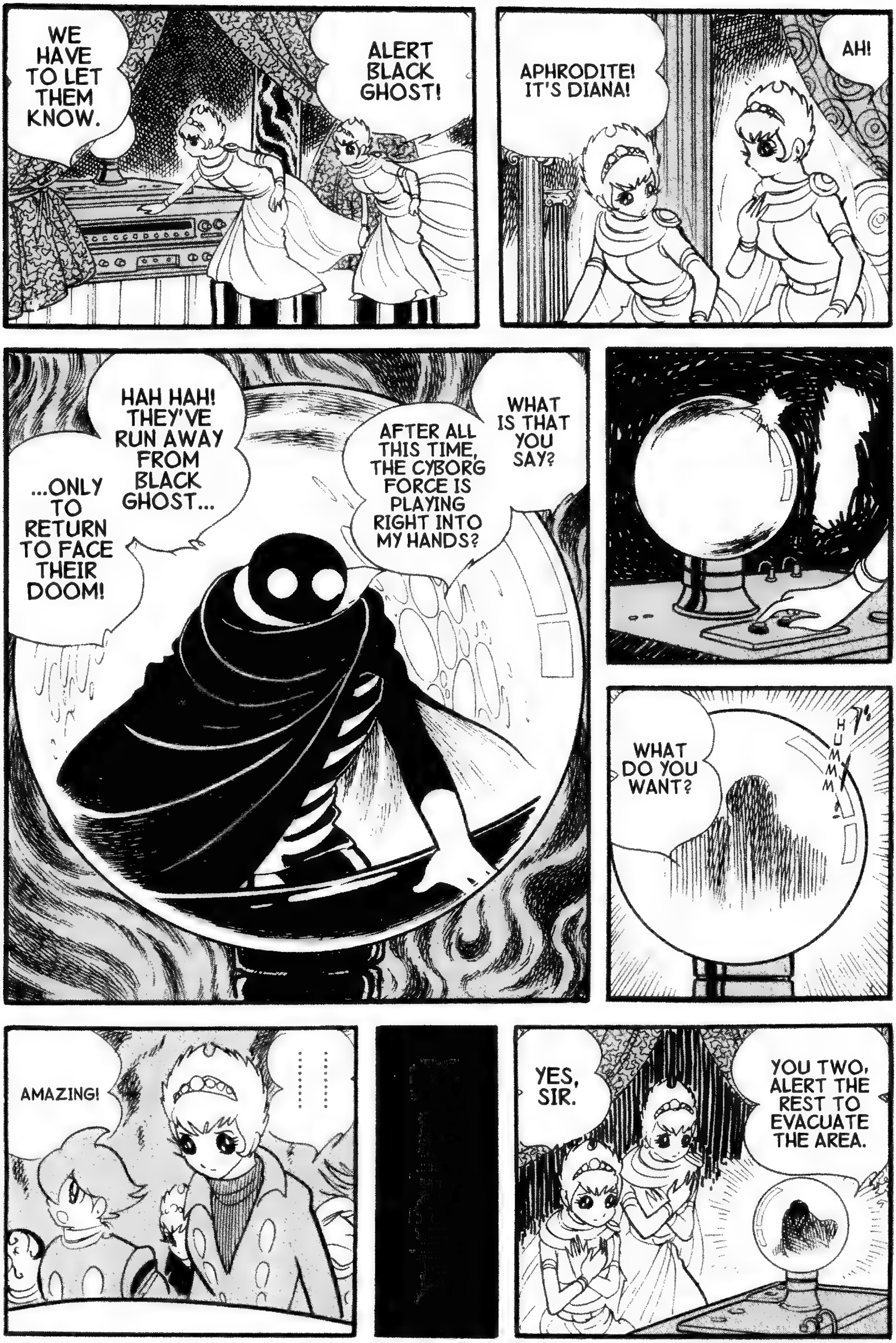

FWOOOO
HOW LONG 'TIL WE REACH THE UNDERGROUND CONTINENT?
AT THIS SPEED, I'D PREDICT WE'D BE THERE...
...SOMETIME EARLY TOMORROW MORNING?
BE CAREFUL.
BELOW US IS A SEA OF LAVA.
WOW ...
STEER CLEAR, 009!
WHIRRRR

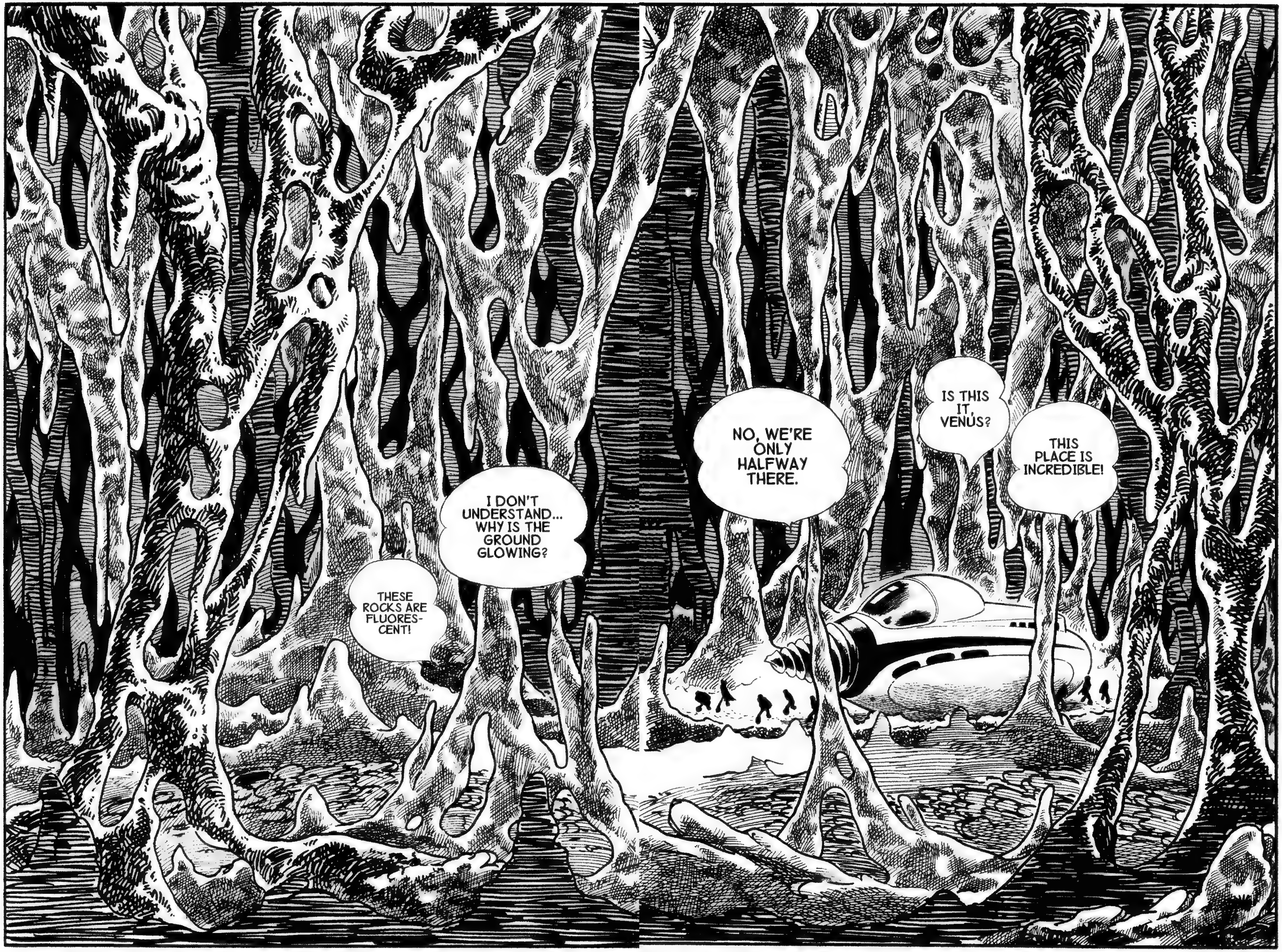

AH!
SKREEE
HEH. THAT WAS CLOSE.
THERE ARE MANY MORE.
NOW WHERE?
JUST KEEP GOING FORWARD.
IT'S A LONG JOURNEY.
WHIRRR
CAREFUL, JOE
DON'T PUSH IT.

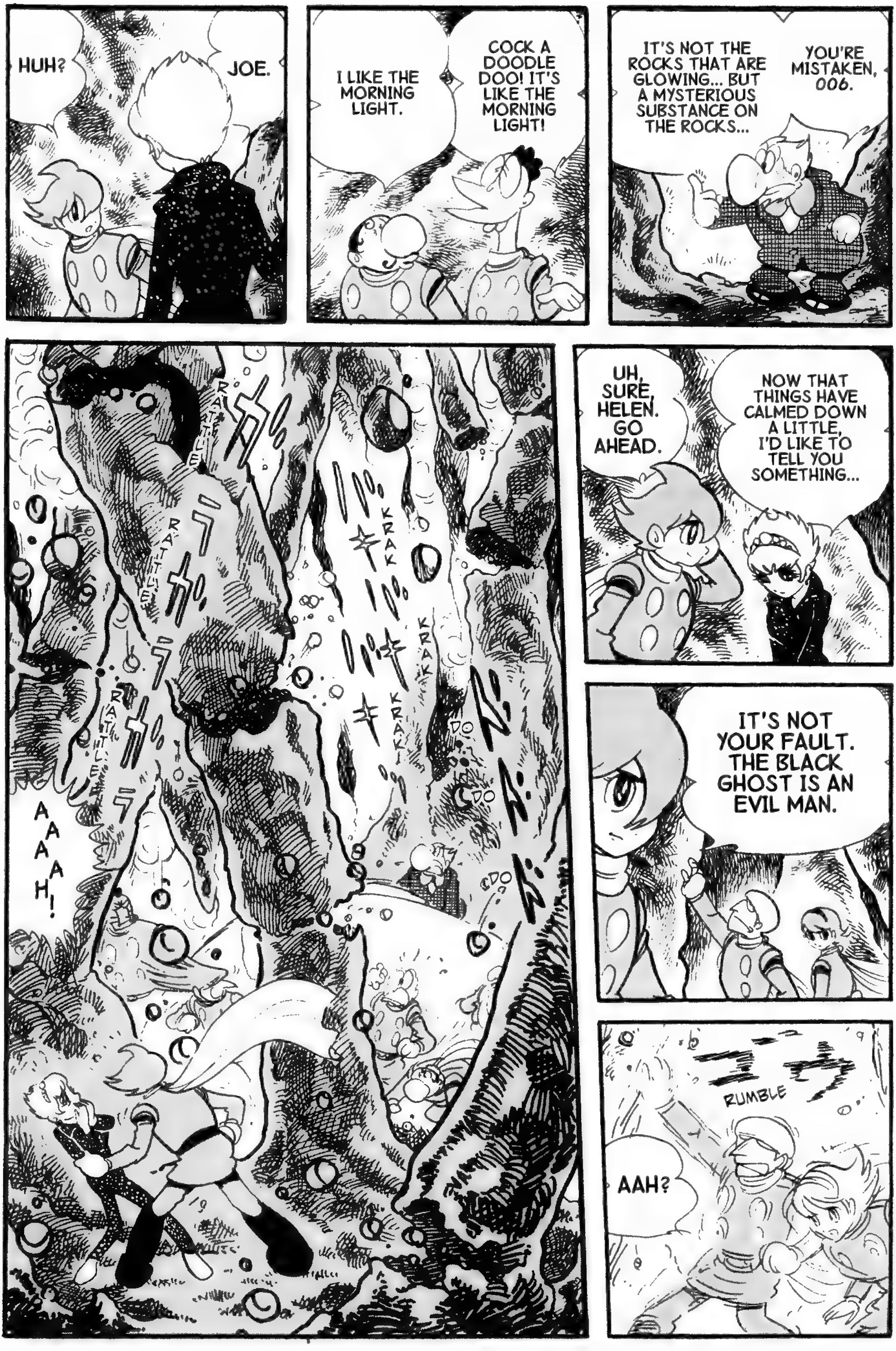

DO YOU THINK WE COULD MAKE IT TO THAT ENTRANCE OVER THERE?
WAH!
WHIRRR
KYAAA!
WAH!
RATTLE
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
DO
DO
DO

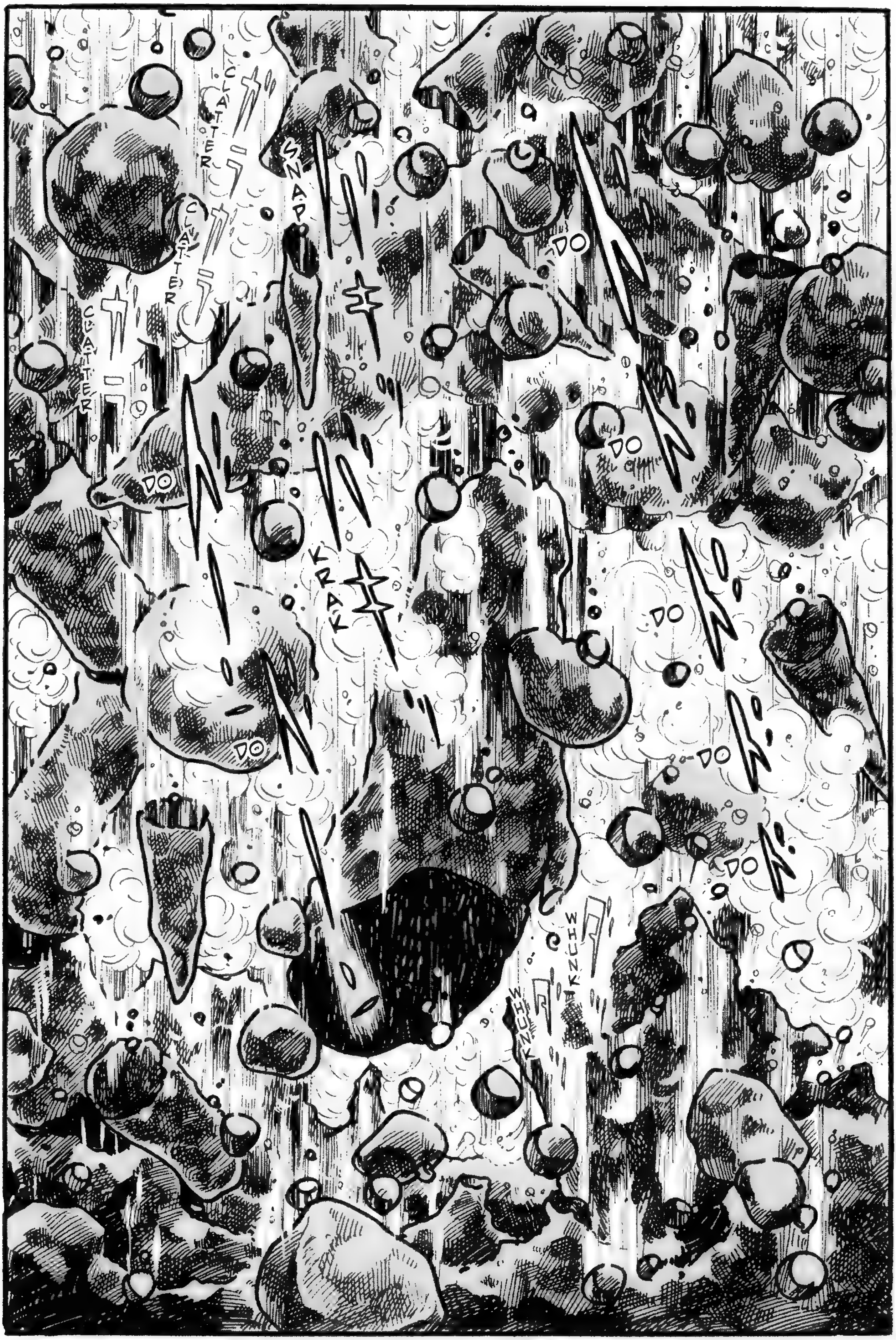

SHUUU
WHUNK
WHIRRRRR
WHEW! TALK ABOUT A CLOSE CALL.
AT THIS RATE, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT OF US TO FIGHT BY THE TIME WE GET THERE!
HEH HEH HEH!
LET'S GO!
WHIRRRR
DO DO DO
FWOOOOOO

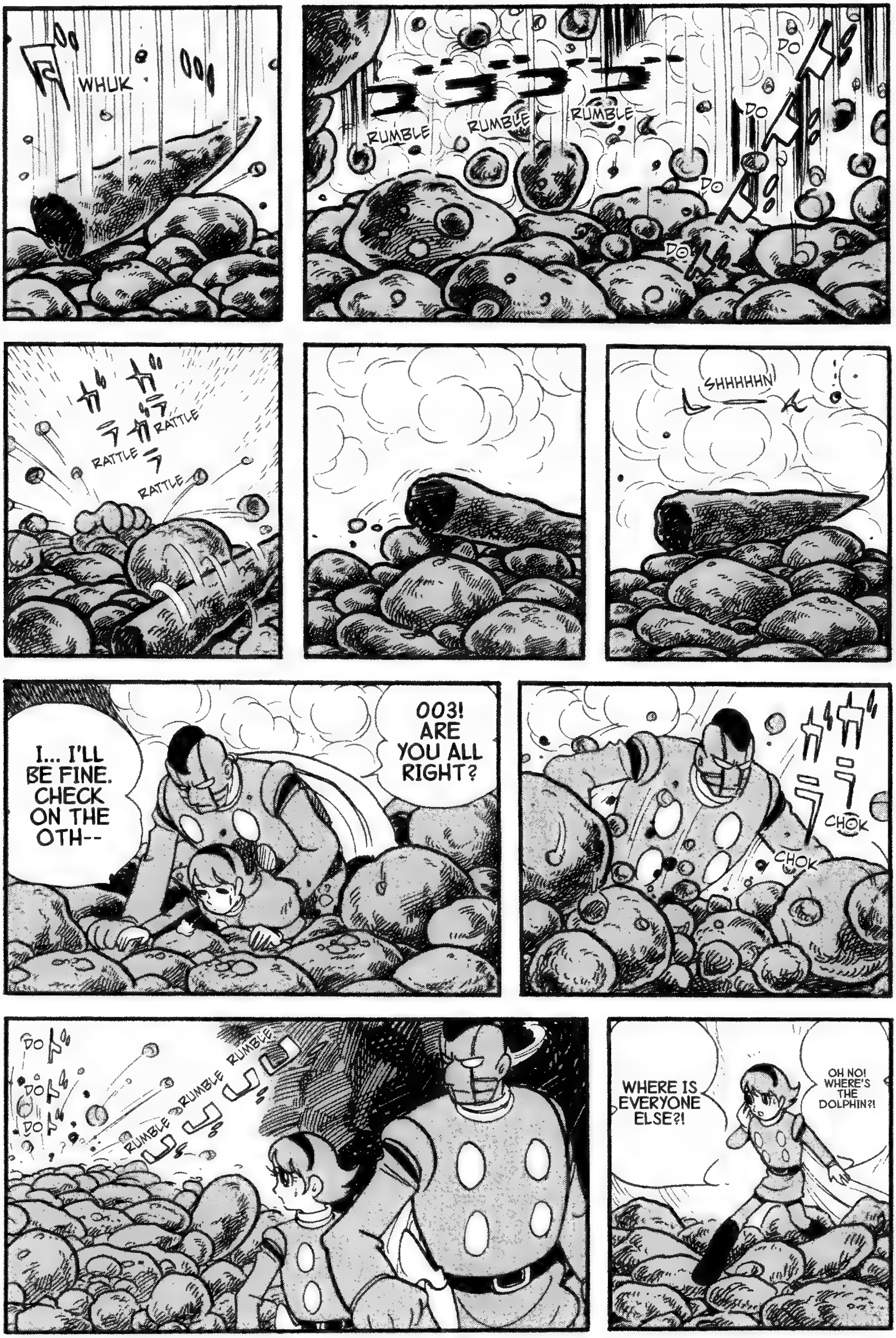

KEEP IN MIND, THERE'S A MUCH BIGGER GOAL HERE!
WHAT'S WRONG, DIANA? WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SISTERS?
OKAY.
TAKE THE FIRST PASSAGEWAY! THAT'S THE SAFEST!
FWOOOO
GOOD. THEN WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR PURSUIT..
FWOOOO
OF COURSE.
SOMETIMES, IN ORDER TO REACH AN OBJECTIVE, SOME SACRIFICES HAVE TO BE MADE!
FWOOOOO
CONTACT HEADQUARTERS. LET THEM KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
WE'LL BE THERE SHORTLY.
FWOOO
AH!
AS YOU COMMAND.

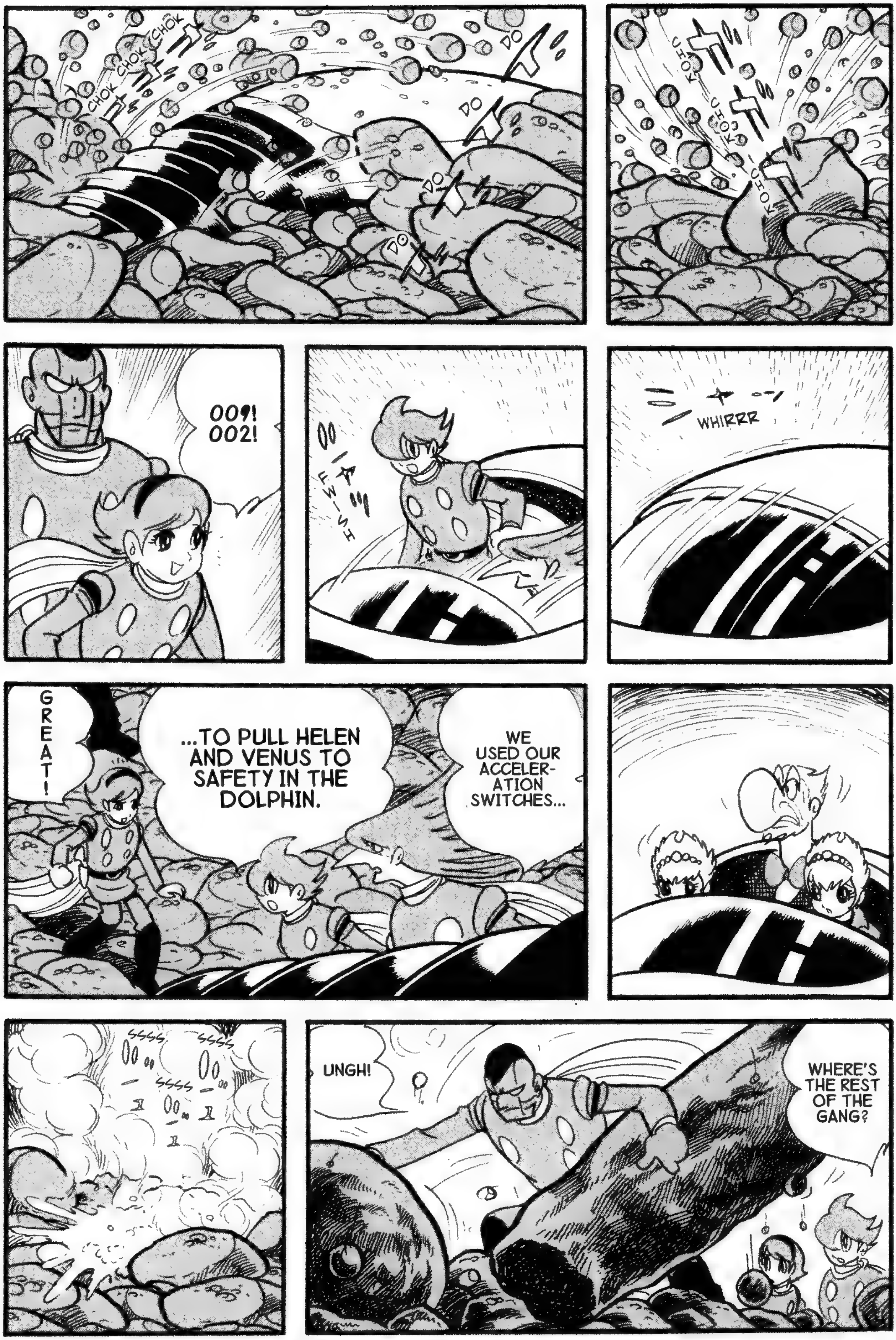

AH!
APHRODITE! IT'S DIANA!
ALERT BLACK GHOST!
WE HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW.
HUMM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT IS THAT YOU SAY?
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE CYBORG FORCE IS PLAYING RIGHT INTO MY HANDS?
HAH HAH! THEY'VE RUN AWAY FROM BLACK GHOST...
...ONLY TO RETURN TO FACE THEIR DOOM!
YOU TWO, ALERT THE REST TO EVACUATE THE AREA.
YES, SIR.
......
AMAZING!

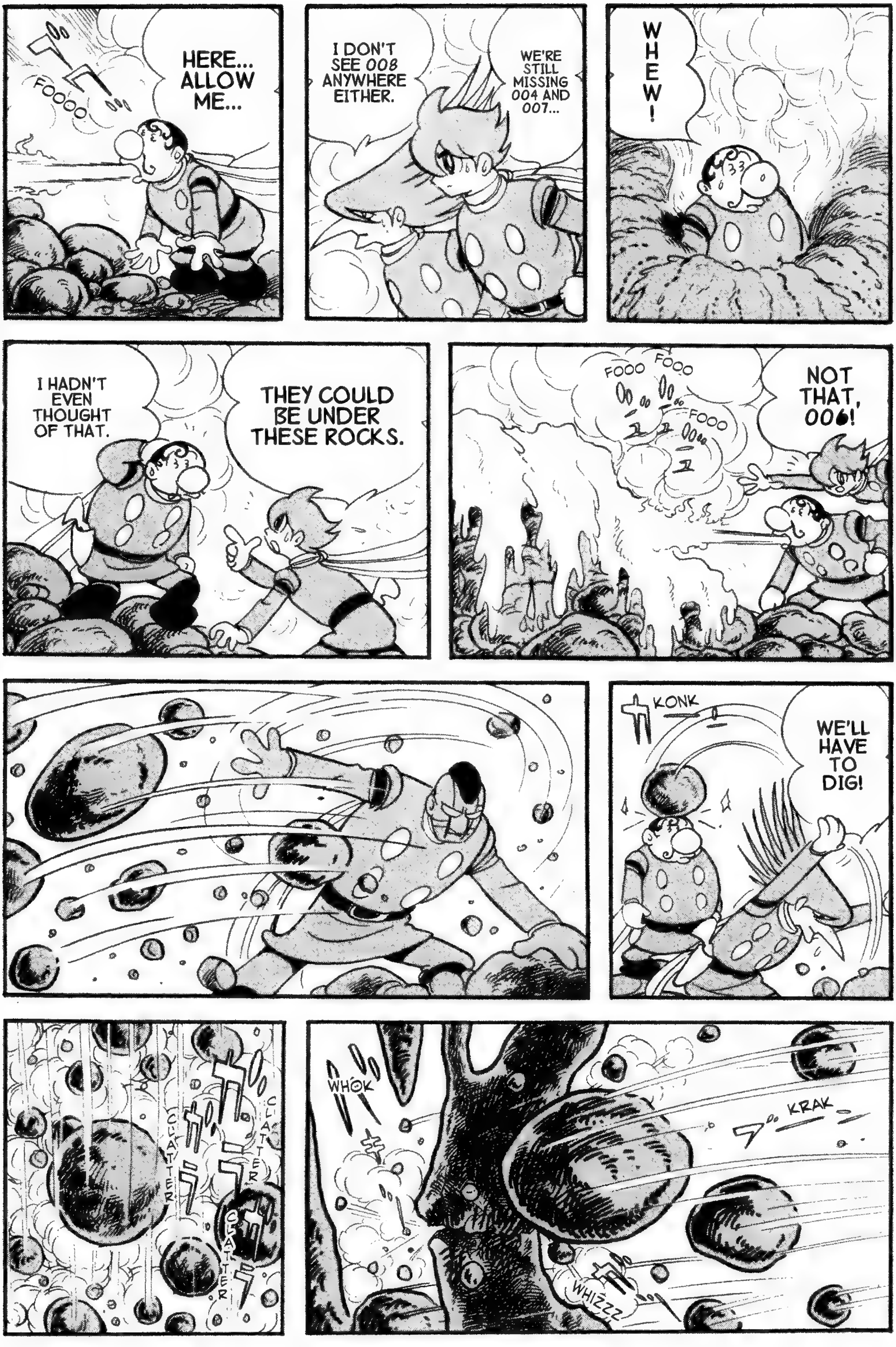

THESE ROCKS ARE FLUORESCENT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY IS THE GROUND GLOWING?
NO, WE'RE ONLY HALFWAY THERE.
IS THIS IT, VENUS?
THIS PLACE IS INCREDIBLE!

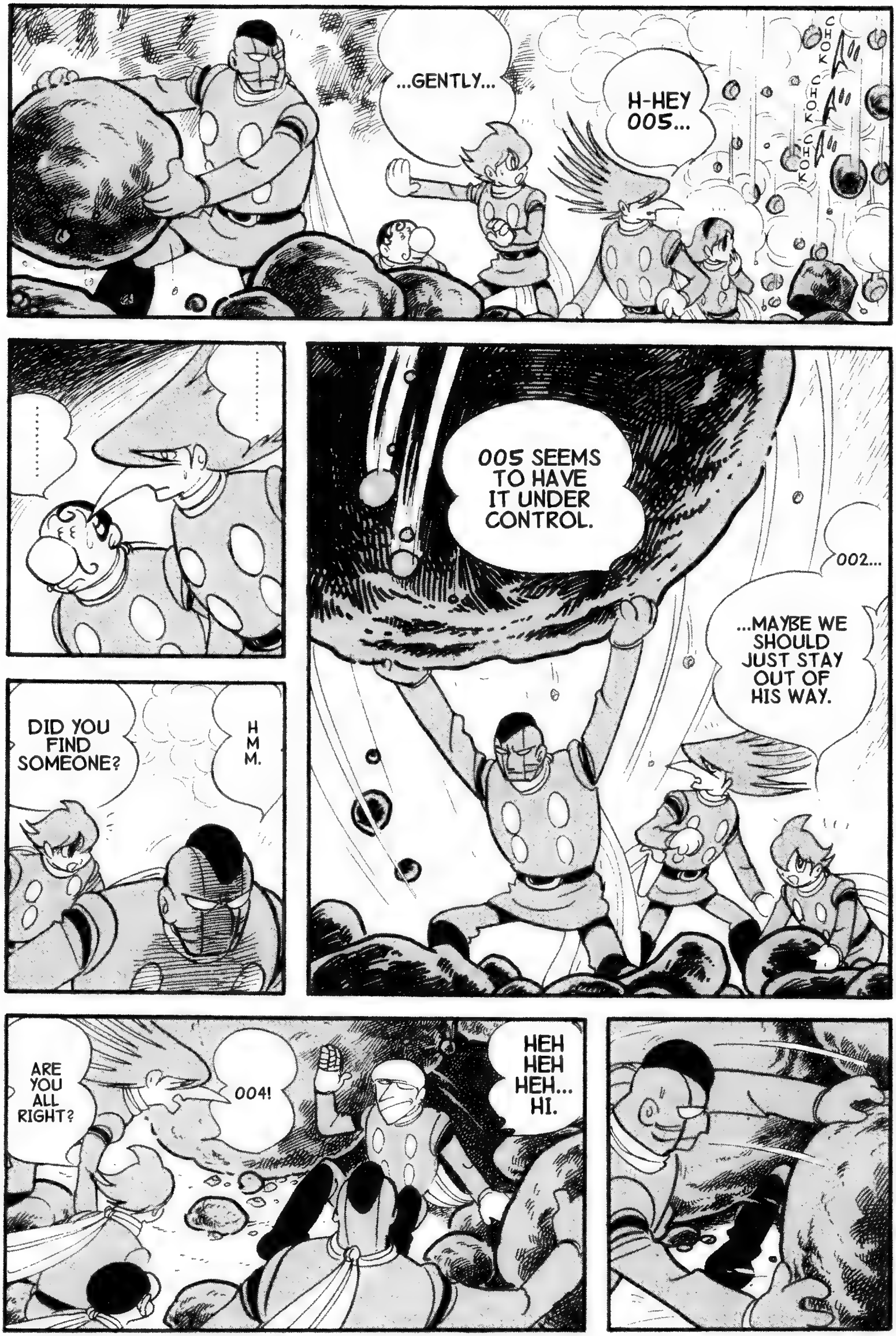

JOE.
HUH?
COCK A DOODLE DOO! IT'S LIKE THE MORNING LIGHT!
I LIKE THE MORNING LIGHT.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, 006.
IT'S NOT THE ROCKS THAT ARE GLOWING... BUT A MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE ON THE ROCKS...
NOW THAT THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN A LITTLE, I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...
UH, SURE, HELEN. GO AHEAD.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. THE BLACK GHOST IS AN EVIL MAN.
RUMBLE
AAH?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
DO
DO
DO
AAAAAH!

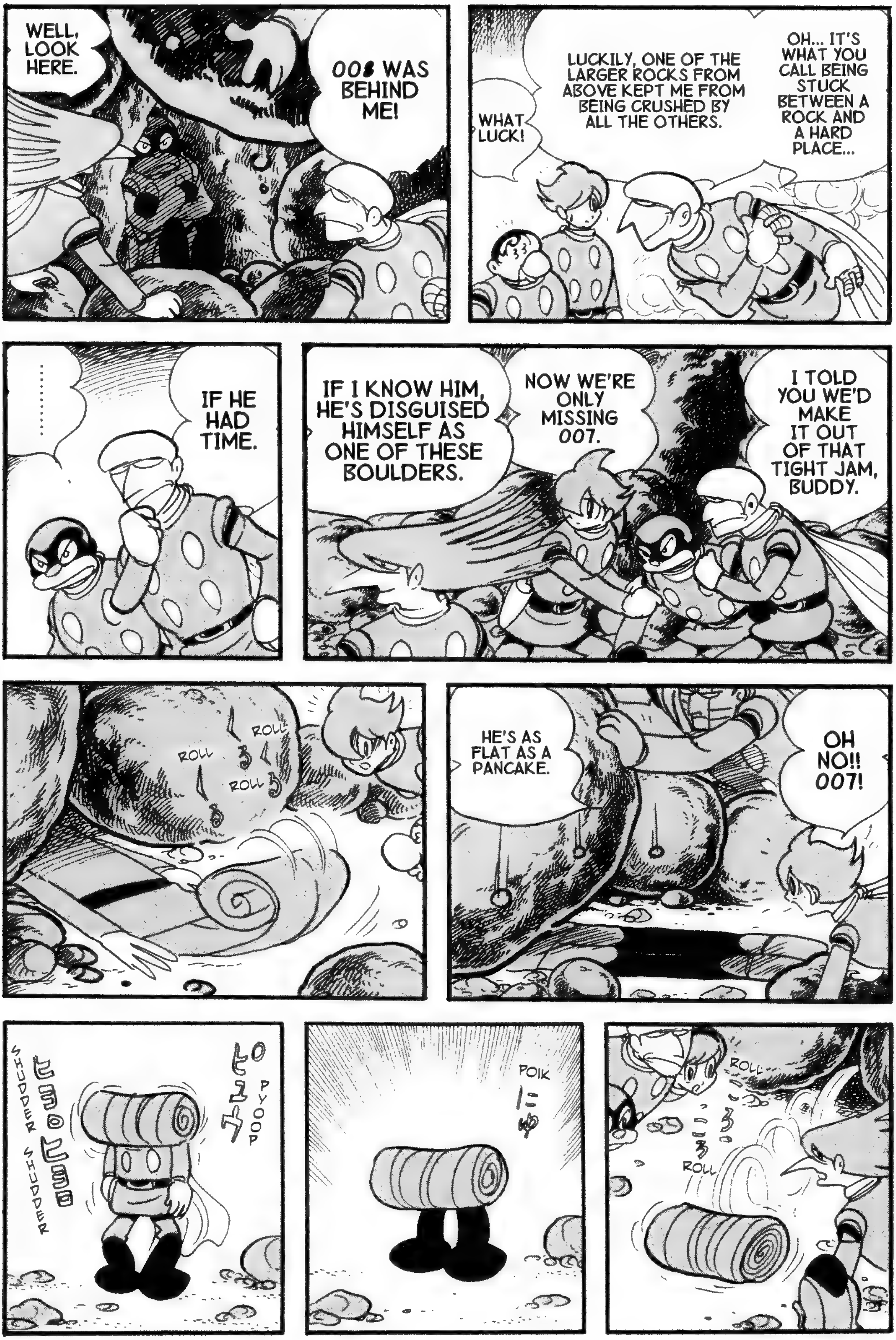

CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
SNAP
DO
DO
DO
KRAK
DO
DO
DO
DO
WHUNK
WHUNK

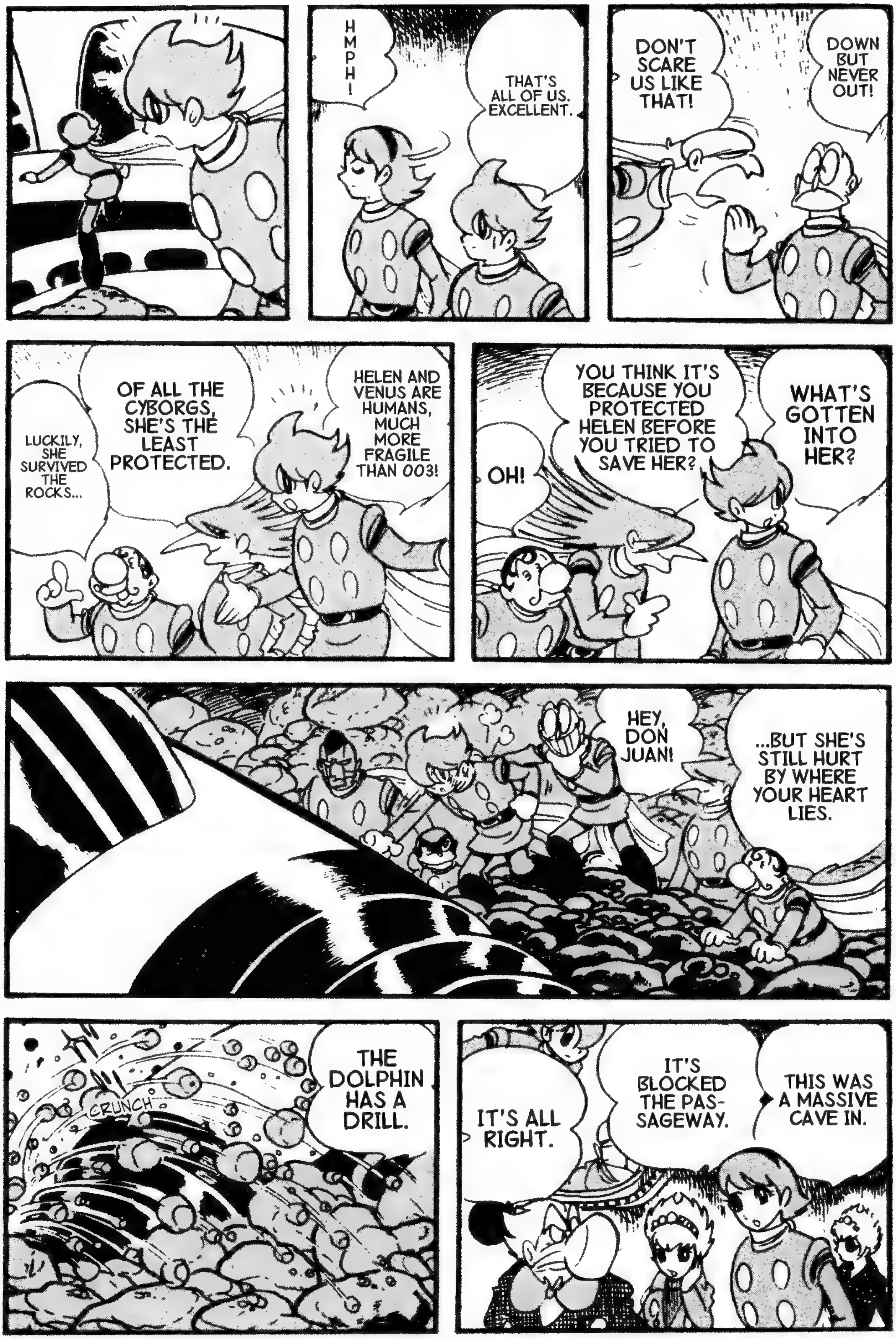

DO
DO
DO
DO
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHUK
SHHHHHN
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CHOK
CHOK
003! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I... I'LL BE FINE. CHECK ON THE OTH--
OH NO! WHERE'S THE DOLPHIN?!
WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
DO
DO
DO

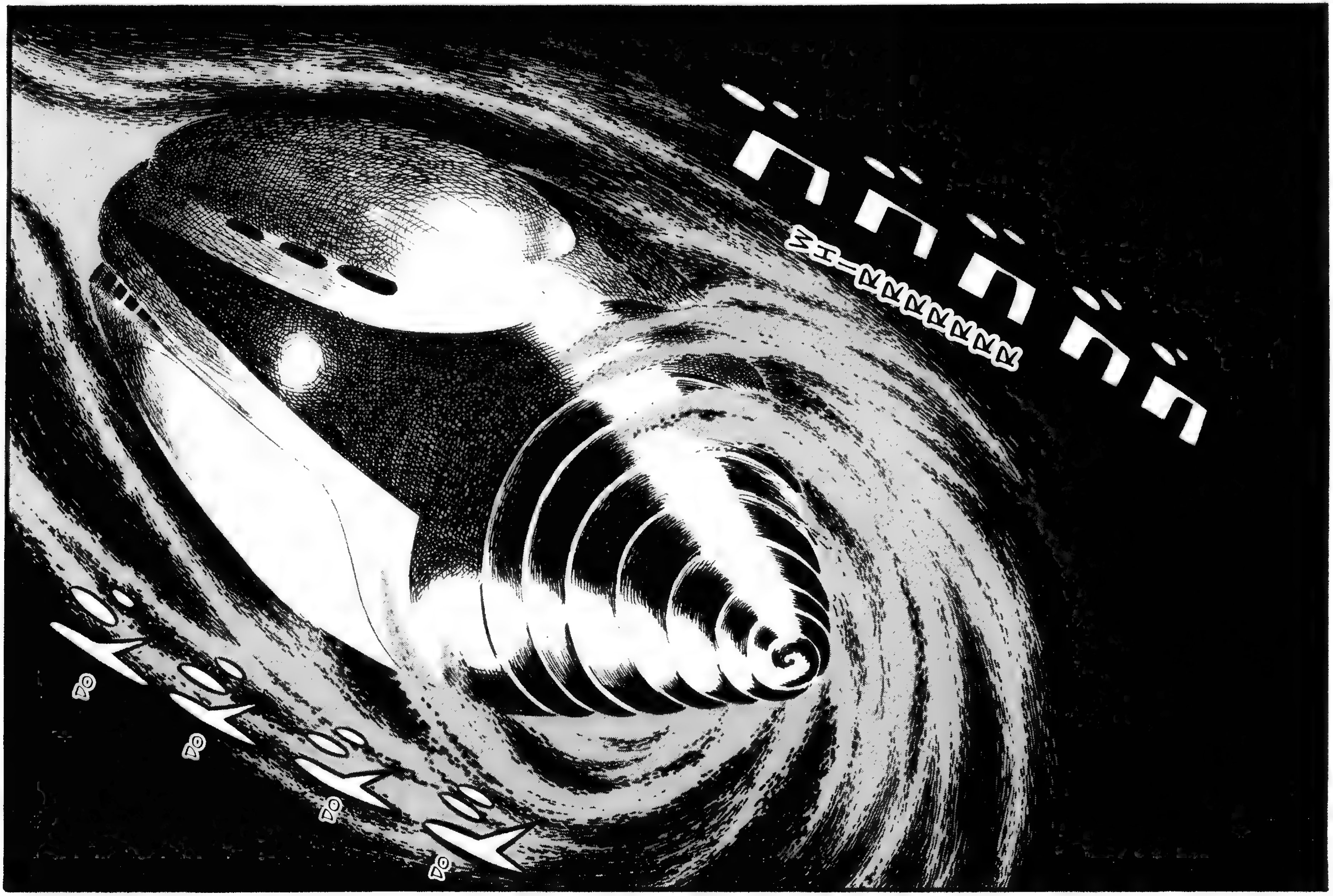

CHOK CHOK CHOK
CHOK CHOK CHOK
DO
DO
DO
DO
WHIRRR
FWISH
009! 002!
WE USED OUR ACCELERATION SWITCHES...
...TO PULL HELEN AND VENUS TO SAFETY IN THE DOLPHIN.
GREAT!
WHERE'S THE REST OF THE GANG?
UNGH!
SSSS
SSSS
SSSS

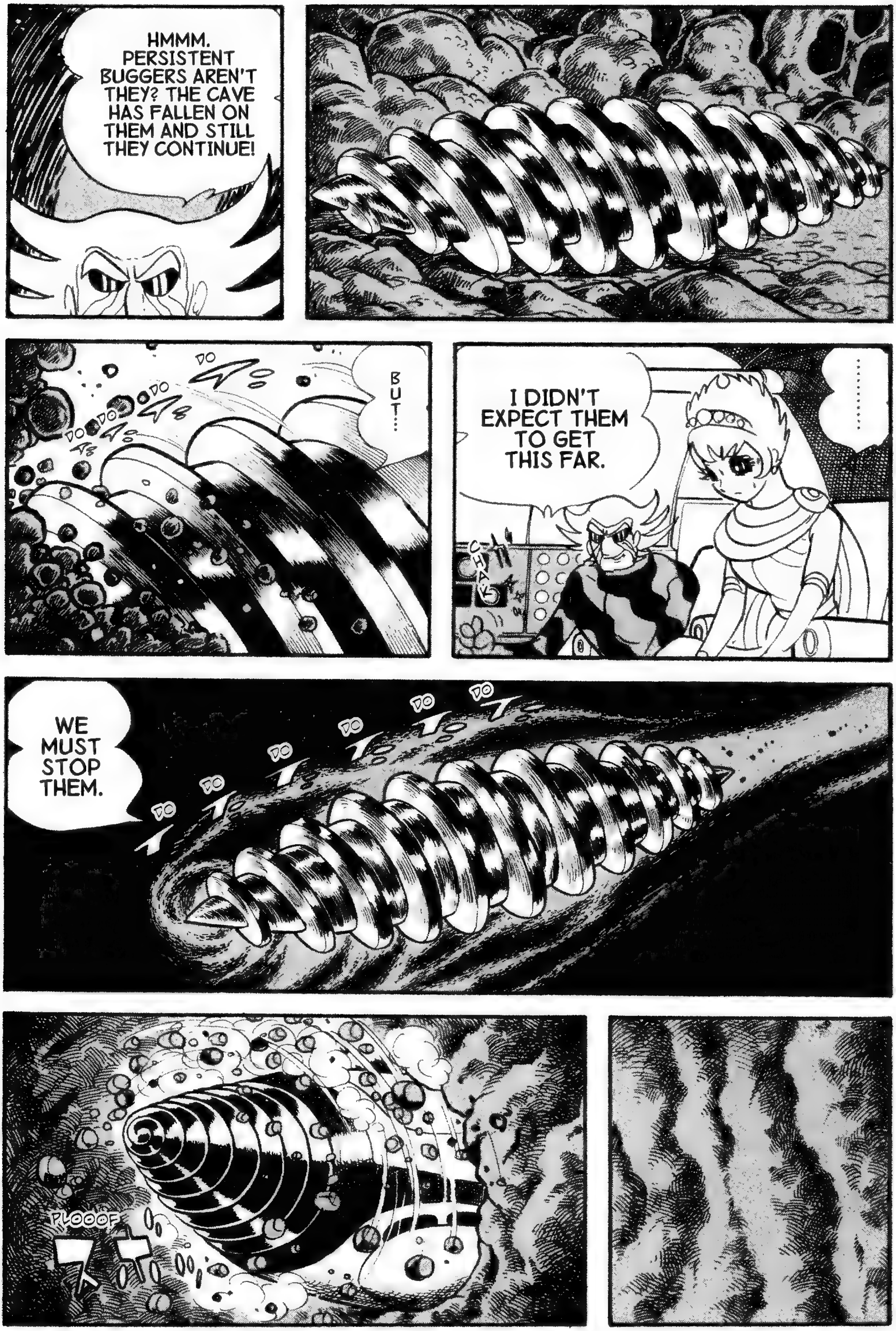

FOOOO
HERE... ALLOW ME...
WE'RE STILL MISSING 004 AND 007...
I DON'T SEE 008 ANYWHERE EITHER.
WHEW!
THEY COULD BE UNDER THESE ROCKS.
I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT.
FOOO FOOO
FOOO
NOT THAT, 006!
KONK
WE'LL HAVE TO DIG!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
WHOK
KRAK
WHIZZZ

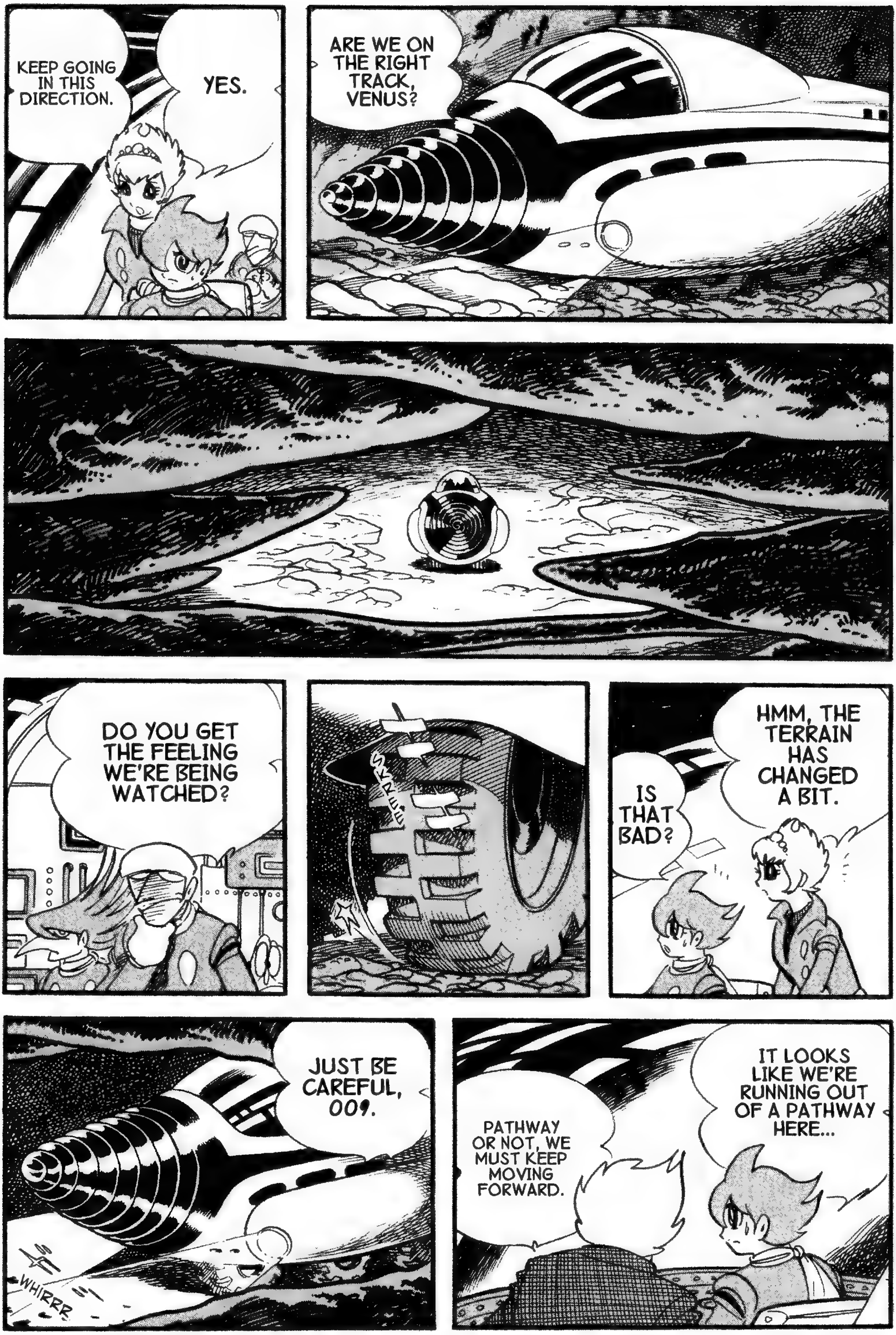

...GENTLY...
H-HEY 005...
CHOK CHOK CHOK
......
......
005 SEEMS TO HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL.
002...
...MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST STAY OUT OF HIS WAY.
DID YOU FIND SOMEONE?
HMM.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
004!
HEH HEH HEH... HI.

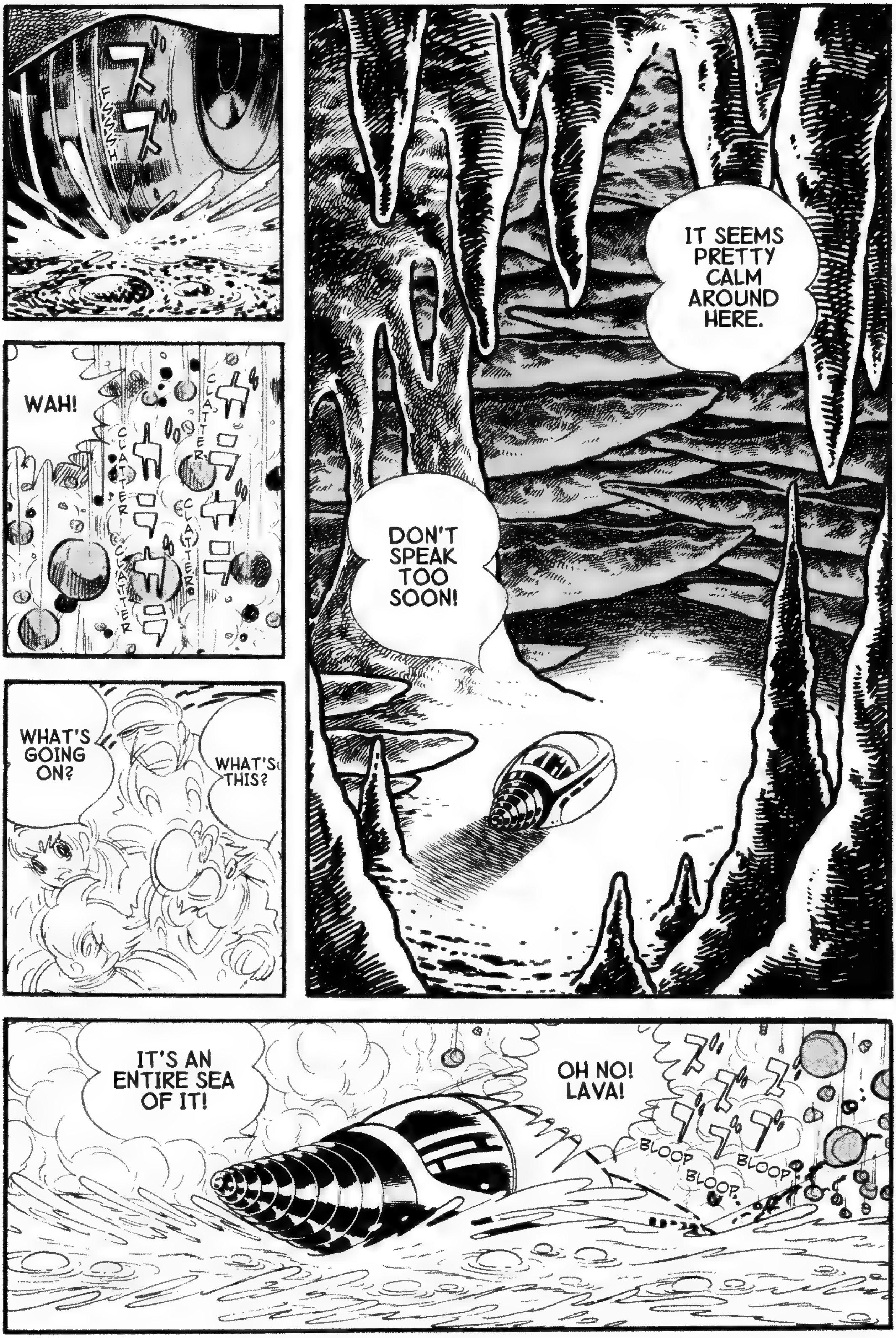

WELL, LOOK HERE.
008 WAS BEHIND ME!
WHAT LUCK!
LUCKILY, ONE OF THE LARGER ROCKS FROM ABOVE KEPT ME FROM BEING CRUSHED BY ALL THE OTHERS.
OH... IT'S WHAT YOU CALL BEING STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE...
....
IF HE HAD TIME.
IF I KNOW HIM, HE'S DISGUISED HIMSELF AS ONE OF THESE BOULDERS.
NOW WE'RE ONLY MISSING 007.
I TOLD YOU WE'D MAKE IT OUT OF THAT TIGHT JAM, BUDDY.
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
HE'S AS FLAT AS A PANCAKE.
OH NO!! 007!
SHUDDER SHUDDER
ヒョロヒョロ
PYOOP
ピョコ
POIK
にゅ
ROLL
ROLL

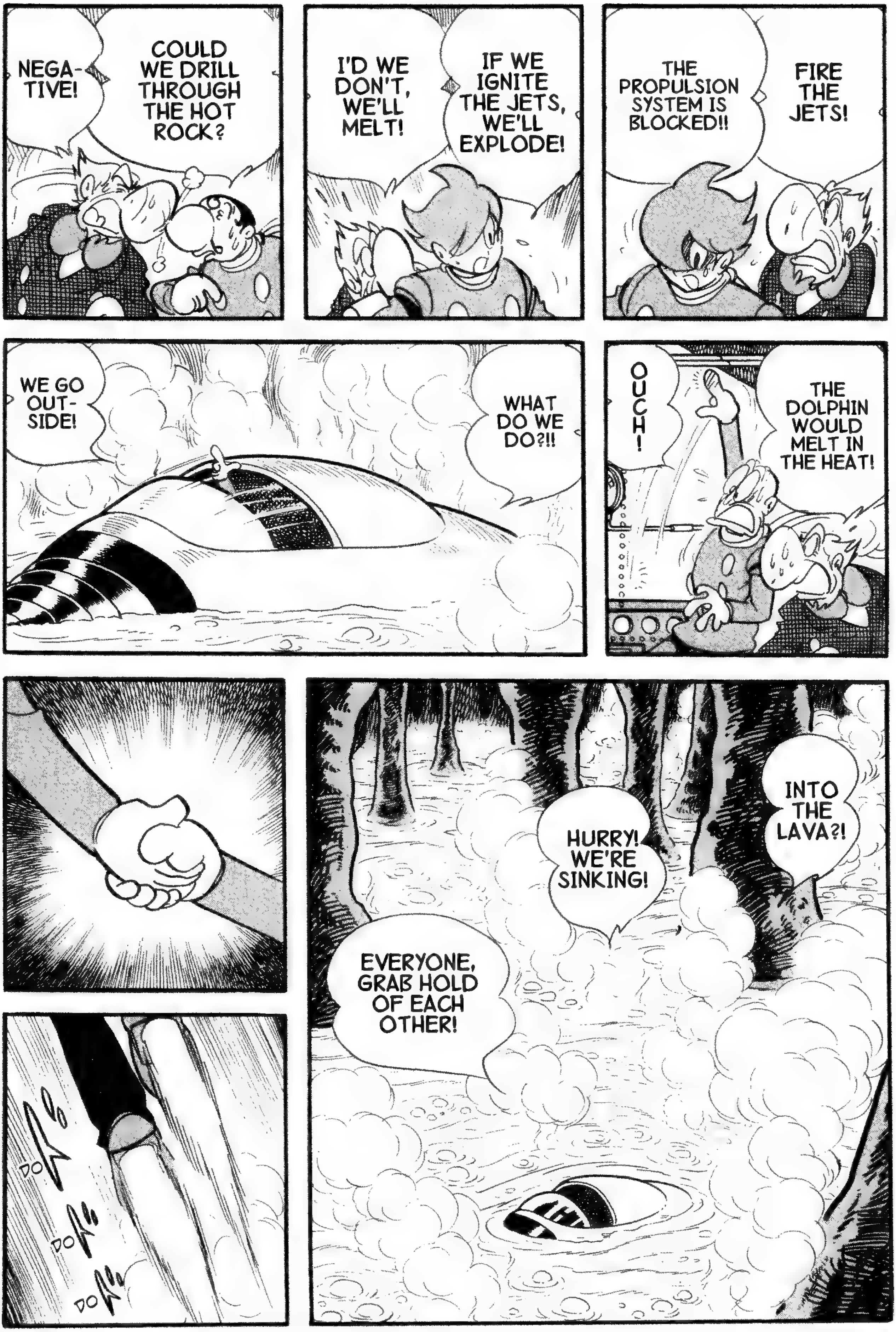

DOWN BUT NEVER OUT!
DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT!
THAT'S ALL OF US. EXCELLENT.
HMPH!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
YOU THINK IT'S BECAUSE YOU PROTECTED HELEN BEFORE YOU TRIED TO SAVE HER?
OH!
HELEN AND VENUS ARE HUMANS, MUCH MORE FRAGILE THAN 003!
OF ALL THE CYBORGS, SHE'S THE LEAST PROTECTED.
LUCKILY, SHE SURVIVED THE ROCKS...
...BUT SHE'S STILL HURT BY WHERE YOUR HEART LIES.
HEY, DON JUAN!
THIS WAS A MASSIVE CAVE IN.
IT'S BLOCKED THE PASSAGEWAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THE DOLPHIN HAS A DRILL.
CRUNCH

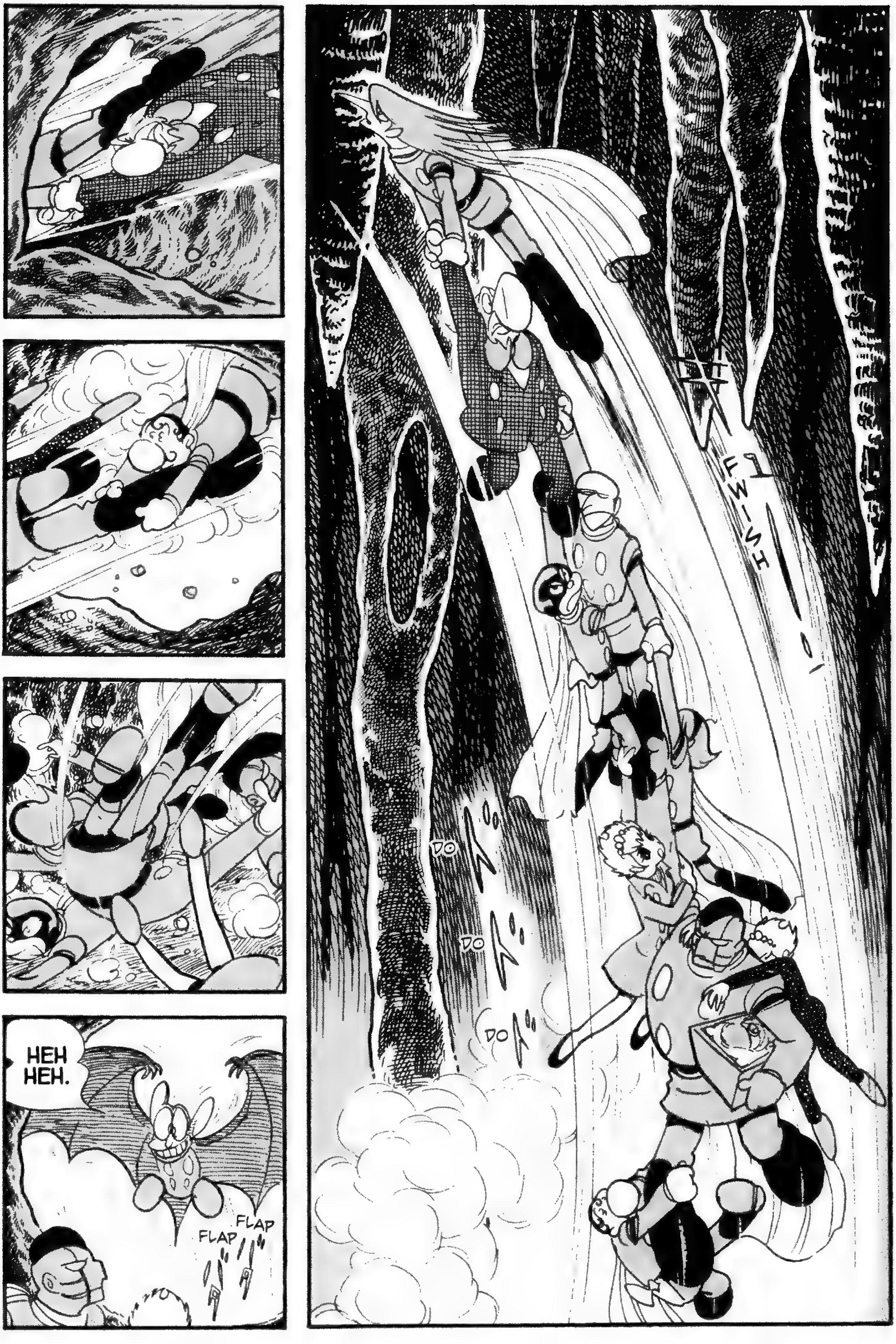

ゴゴゴゴゴ
WHI-RRRRRRRR
DO
DO
DO
DO

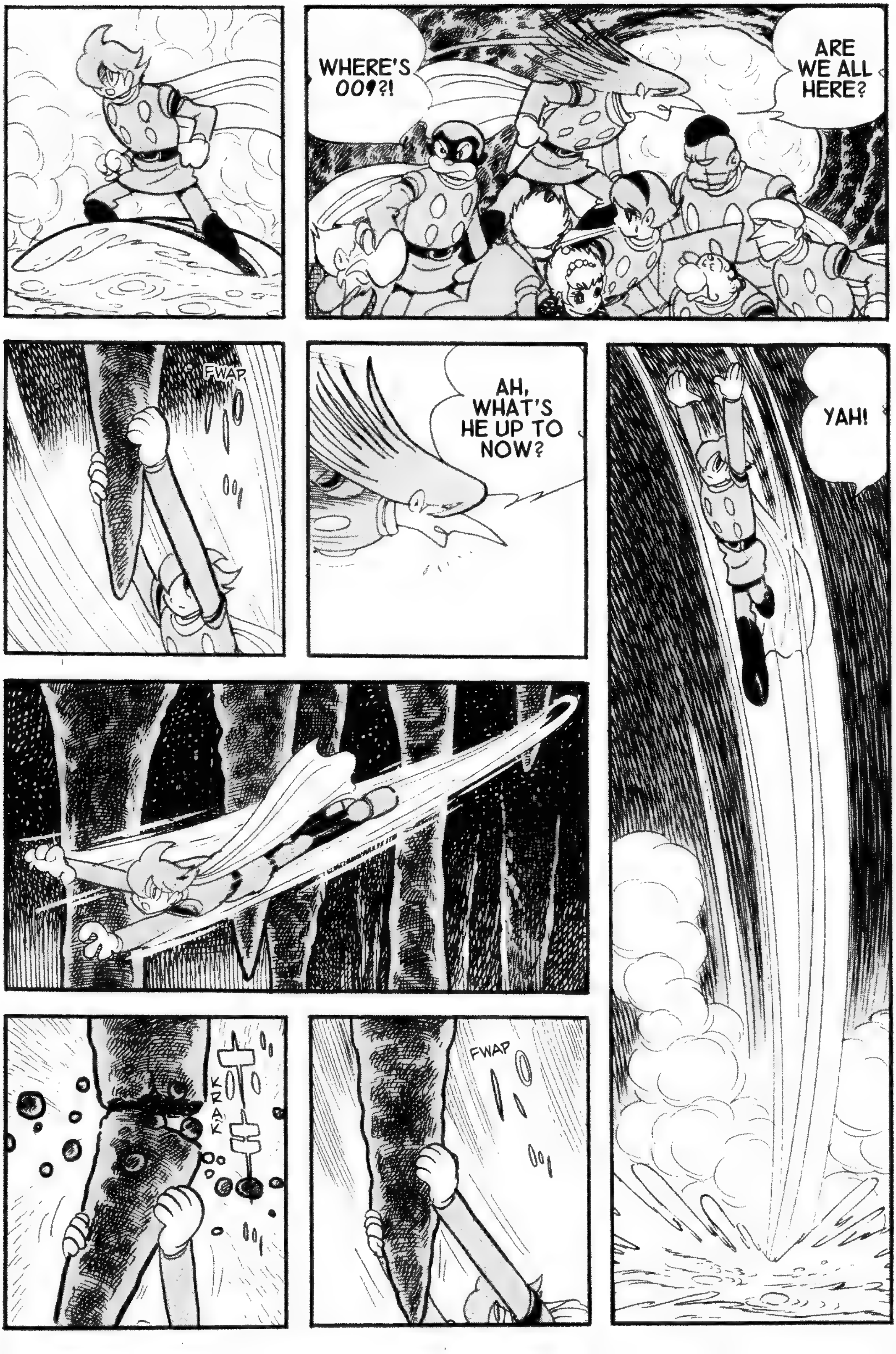

HMMM. PERSISTENT BUGGERS AREN'T THEY? THE CAVE HAS FALLEN ON THEM AND STILL THEY CONTINUE!
DO DO DO DO
BUT…
I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO GET THIS FAR.
CHA
……
WE MUST STOP THEM.
DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
PLOOOF

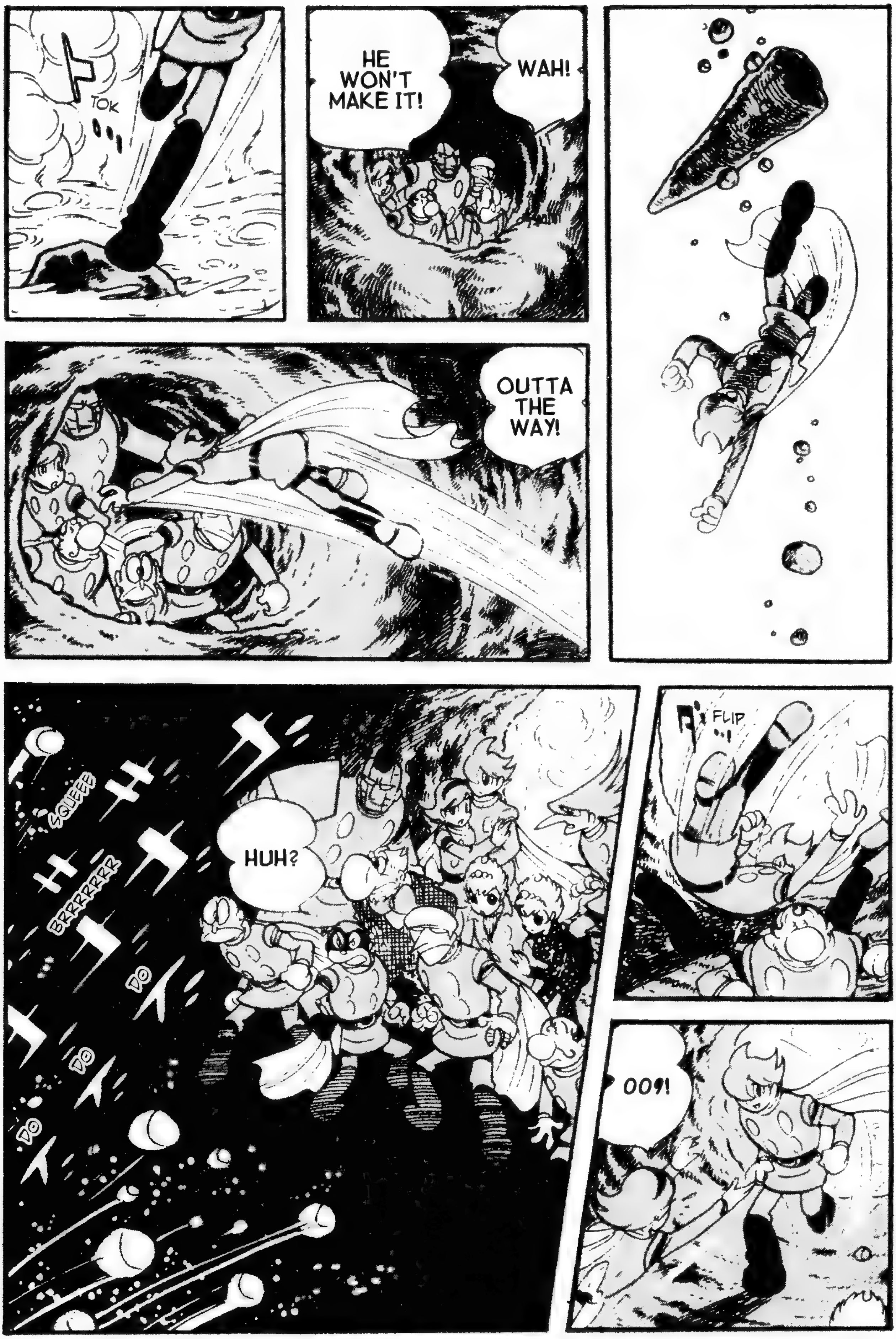

KEEP GOING IN THIS DIRECTION.
YES.
ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, VENUS?
DO YOU GET THE FEELING WE'RE BEING WATCHED?
SKREE
HMM, THE TERRAIN HAS CHANGED A BIT.
IS THAT BAD?
JUST BE CAREFUL, 009.
WHIRRR
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF A PATHWAY HERE...
PATHWAY OR NOT, WE MUST KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

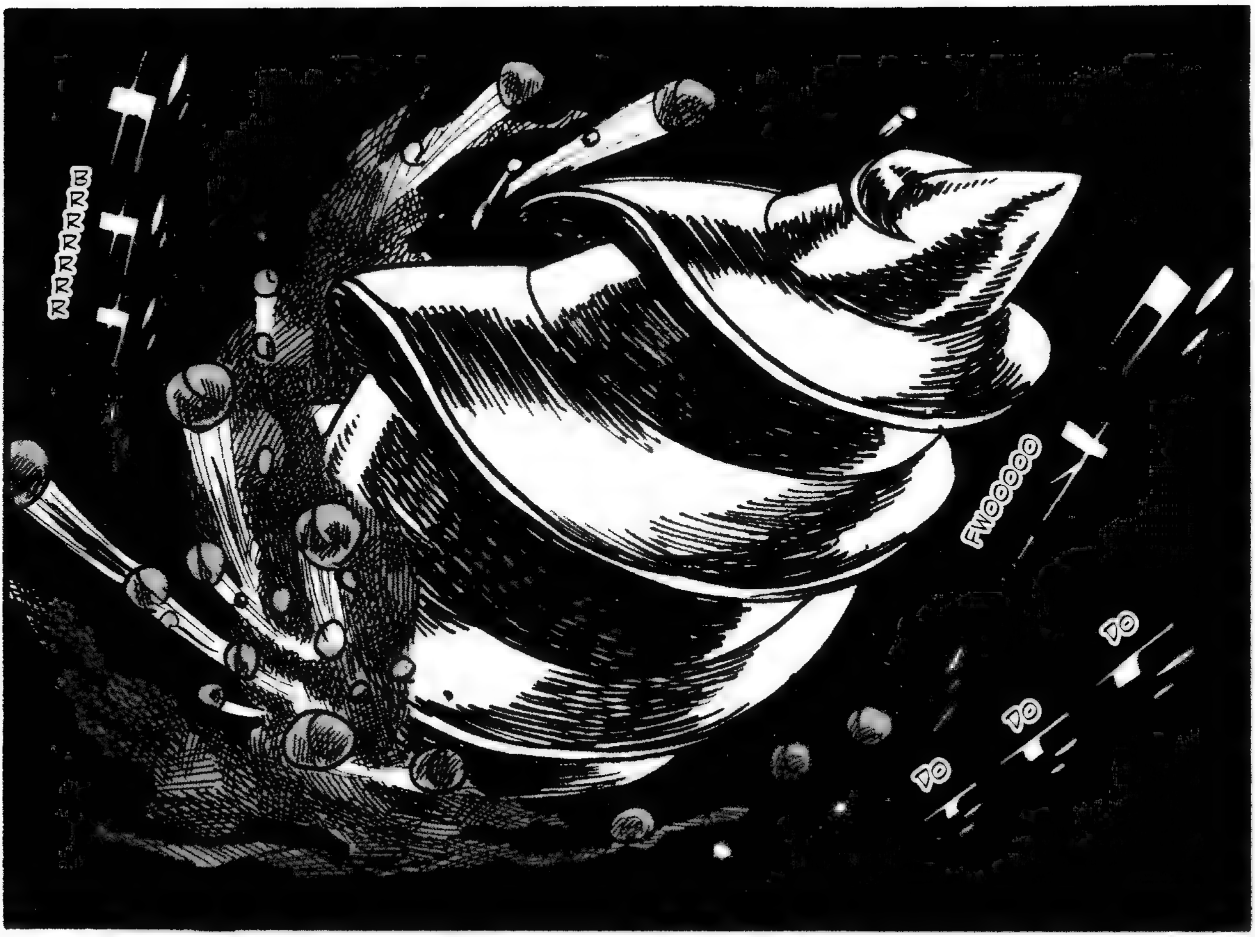

IT SEEMS PRETTY CALM AROUND HERE.
DON'T SPEAK TOO SOON!
FSSSH
WAH!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
OH NO! LAVA!
IT'S AN ENTIRE SEA OF IT!

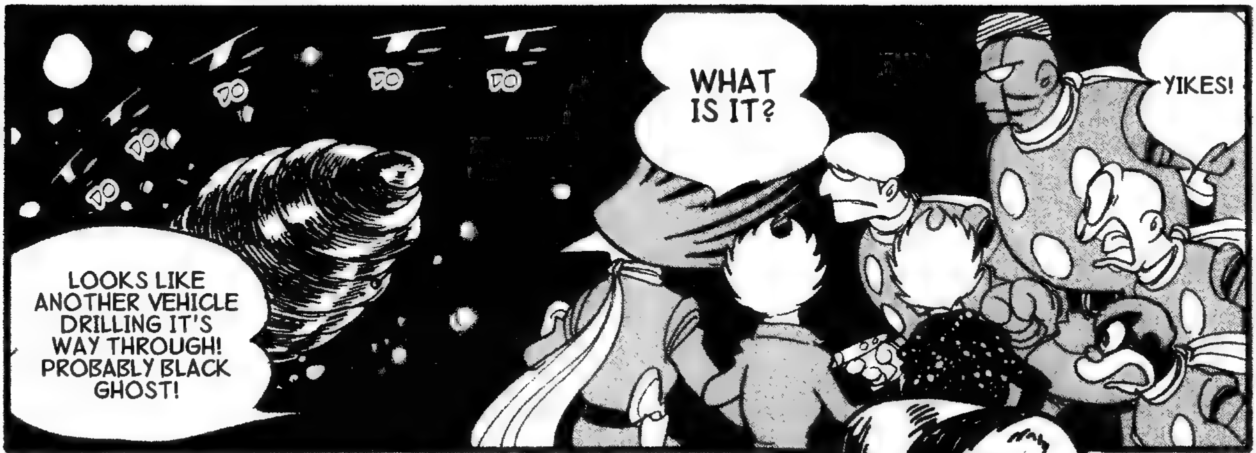

FIRE THE JETS!
THE PROPULSION SYSTEM IS BLOCKED!!
IF WE IGNITE THE JETS, WE'LL EXPLODE!
I'D WE DON'T, WE'LL MELT!
COULD WE DRILL THROUGH THE HOT ROCK?
NEGA-TIVE!
THE DOLPHIN WOULD MELT IN THE HEAT!
OUCH!
WHAT DO WE DO?!!
WE GO OUT-SIDE!
INTO THE LAVA?!
HURRY! WE'RE SINKING!
EVERYONE, GRAB HOLD OF EACH OTHER!
DO
DO
DO

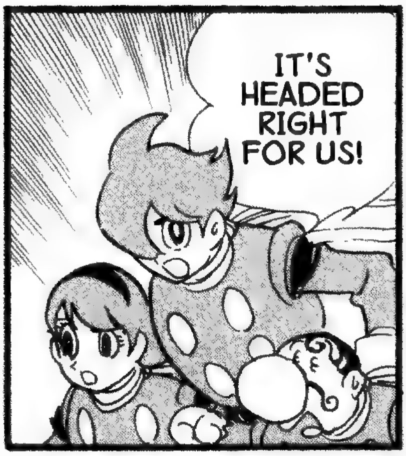

FWISH
DO
DO
DO
HEH HEH.
FLAP
FLAP

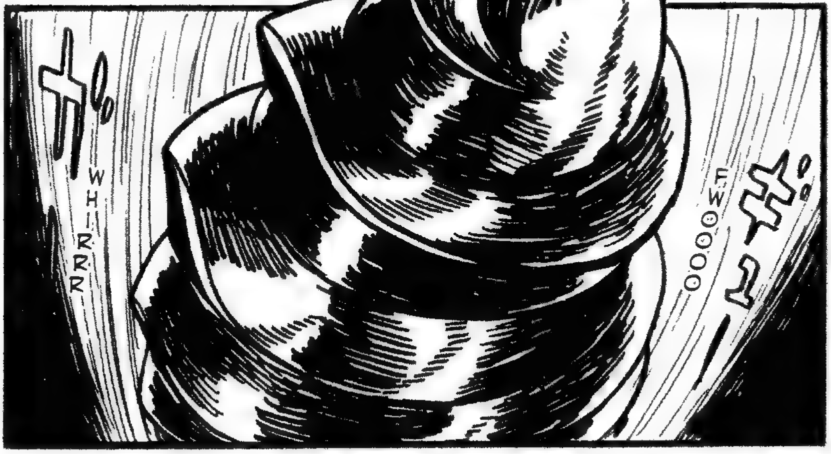

WHERE'S 009?!
ARE WE ALL HERE?
FWAP
AH, WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?
YAH!
KRAK
FWAP

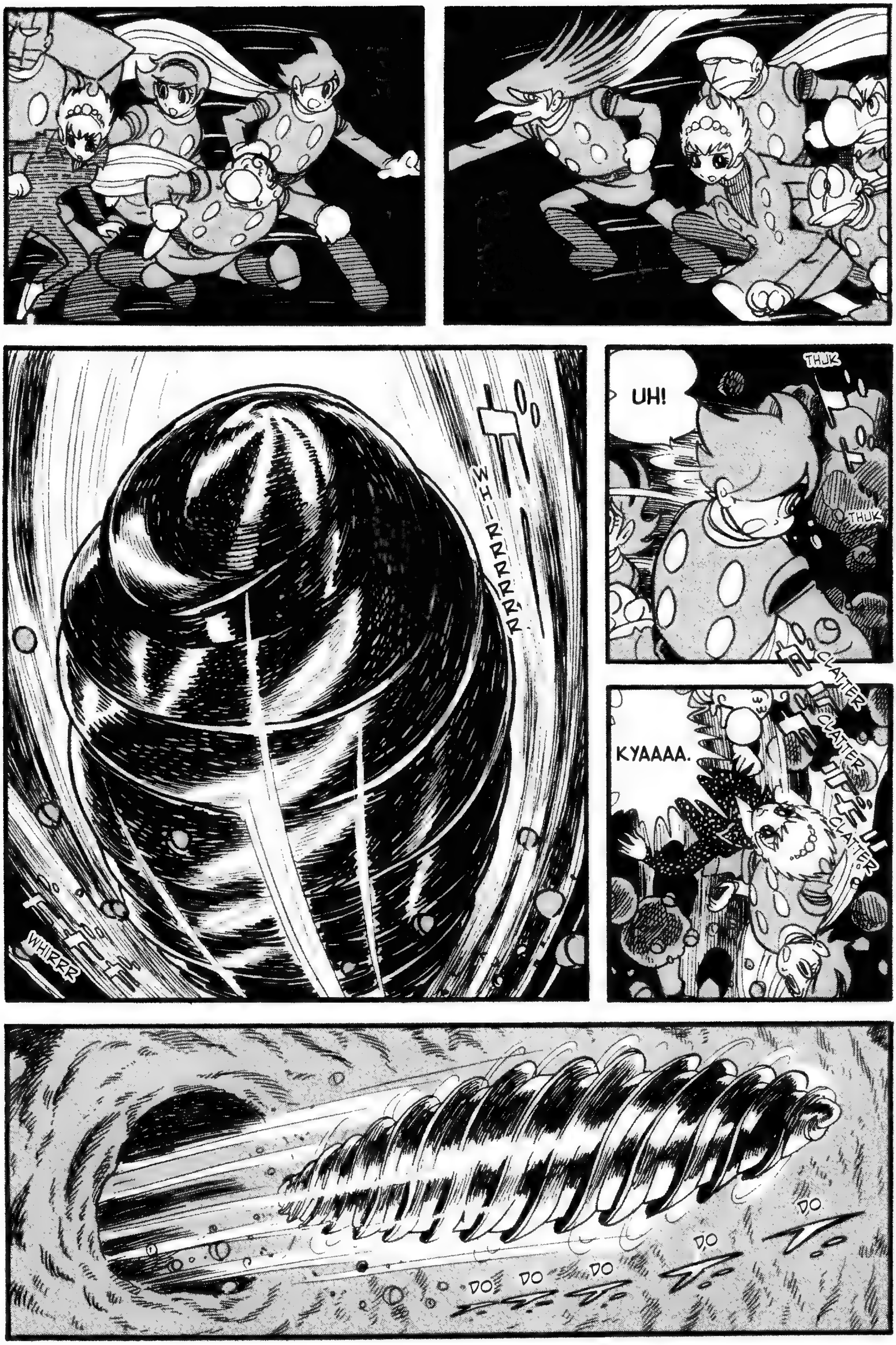

TOK
HE WON'T MAKE IT!
WAH!
OUTTA THE WAY!
HUH?
SQUEEE
BRRRRRRR
DO
DO
DO
FLIP
009!

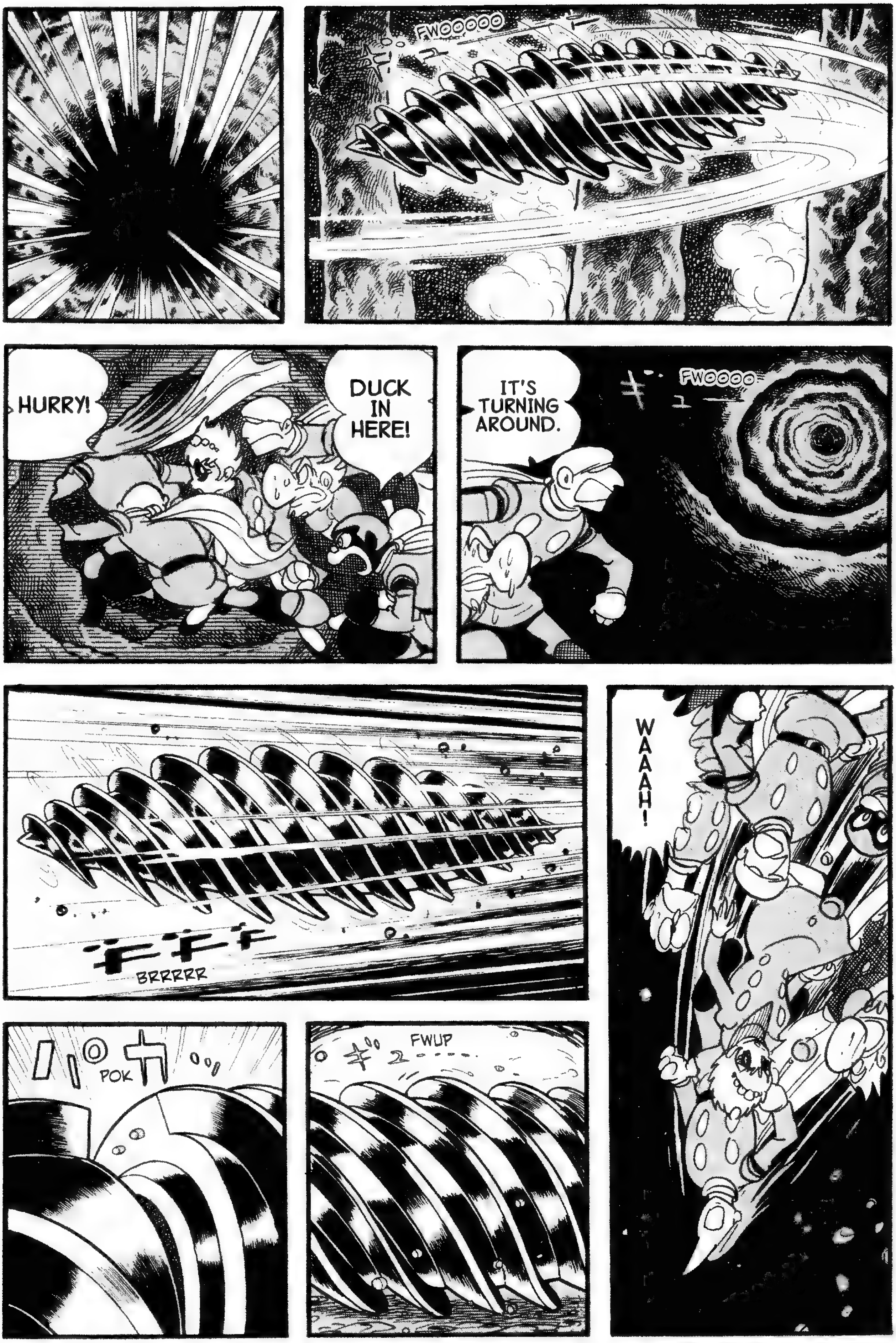

BRRRRRR
FWOOOOO
DO
DO
DO

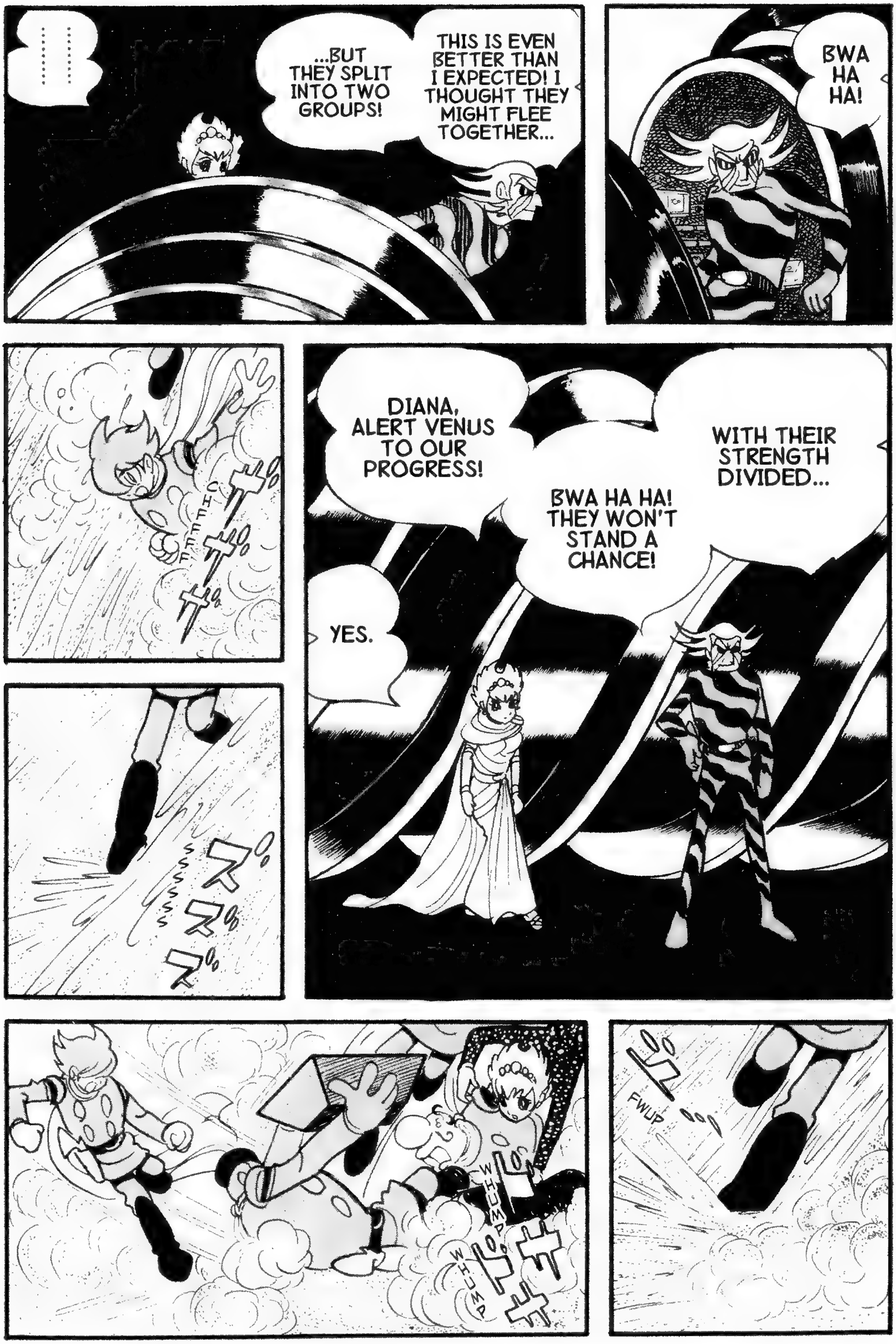

YIKES!
WHAT IS IT?
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER VEHICLE DRILLING IT'S WAY THROUGH! PROBABLY BLACK GHOST!

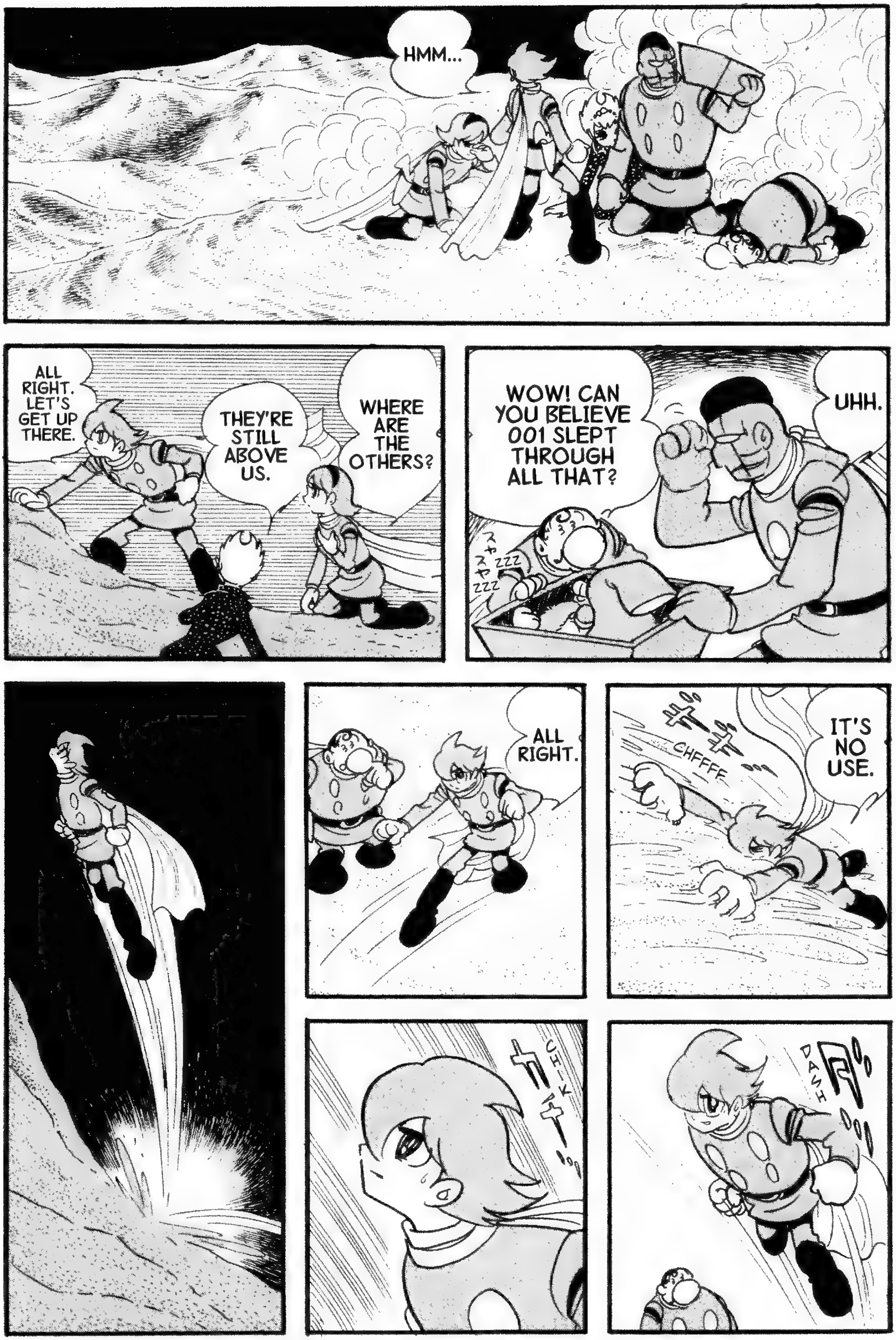

IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR US!

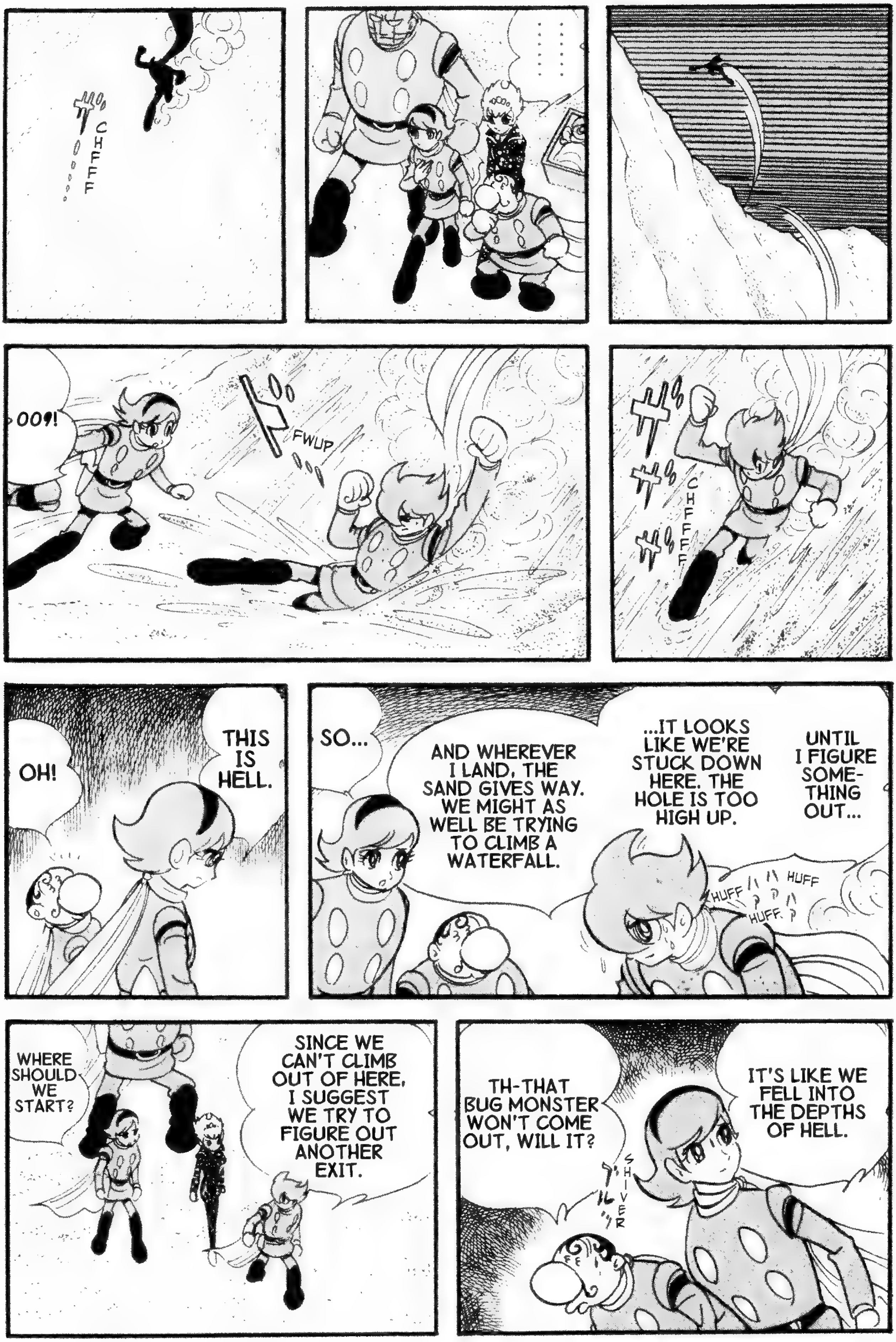

FWOOOO
WHIRRR

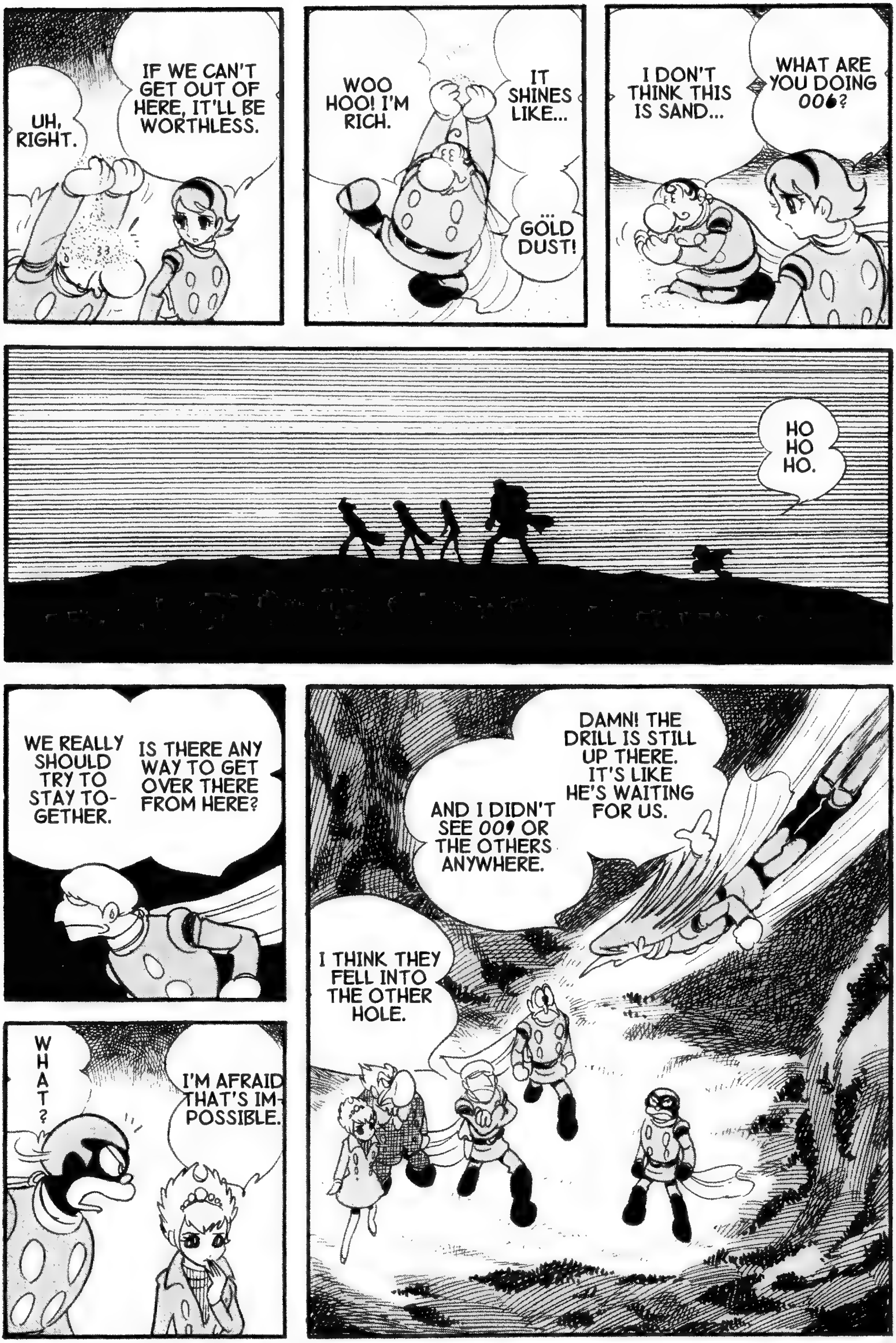

UH!
THUK
THUK
KYAAAA.
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
WHIRRRRRRR
WHIRRR
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

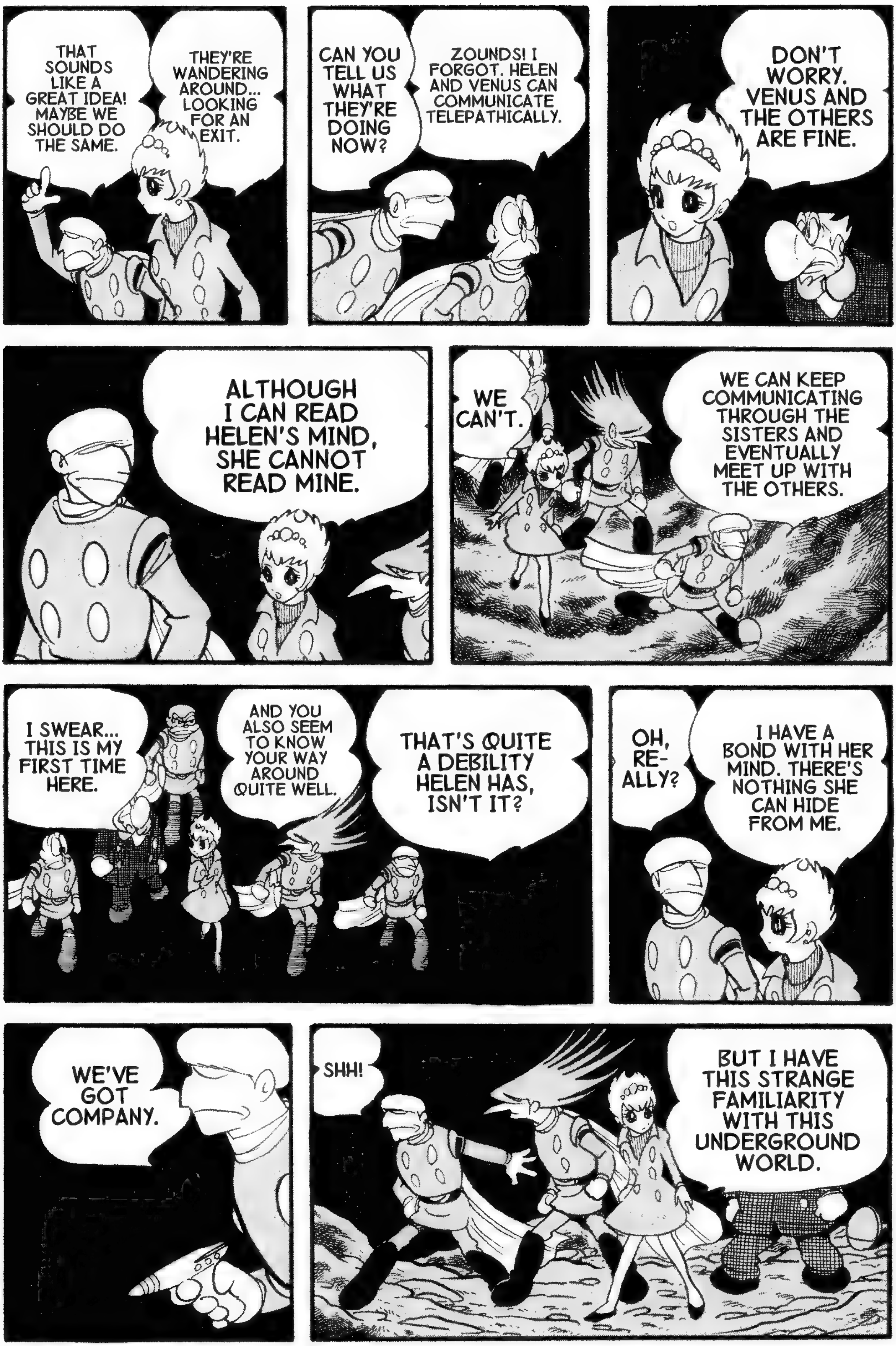

FWOOOOO
HURRY!
DUCK IN HERE!
IT'S TURNING AROUND.
FWOOOO
BRRRRR
POK
FWUP
WAAAH!

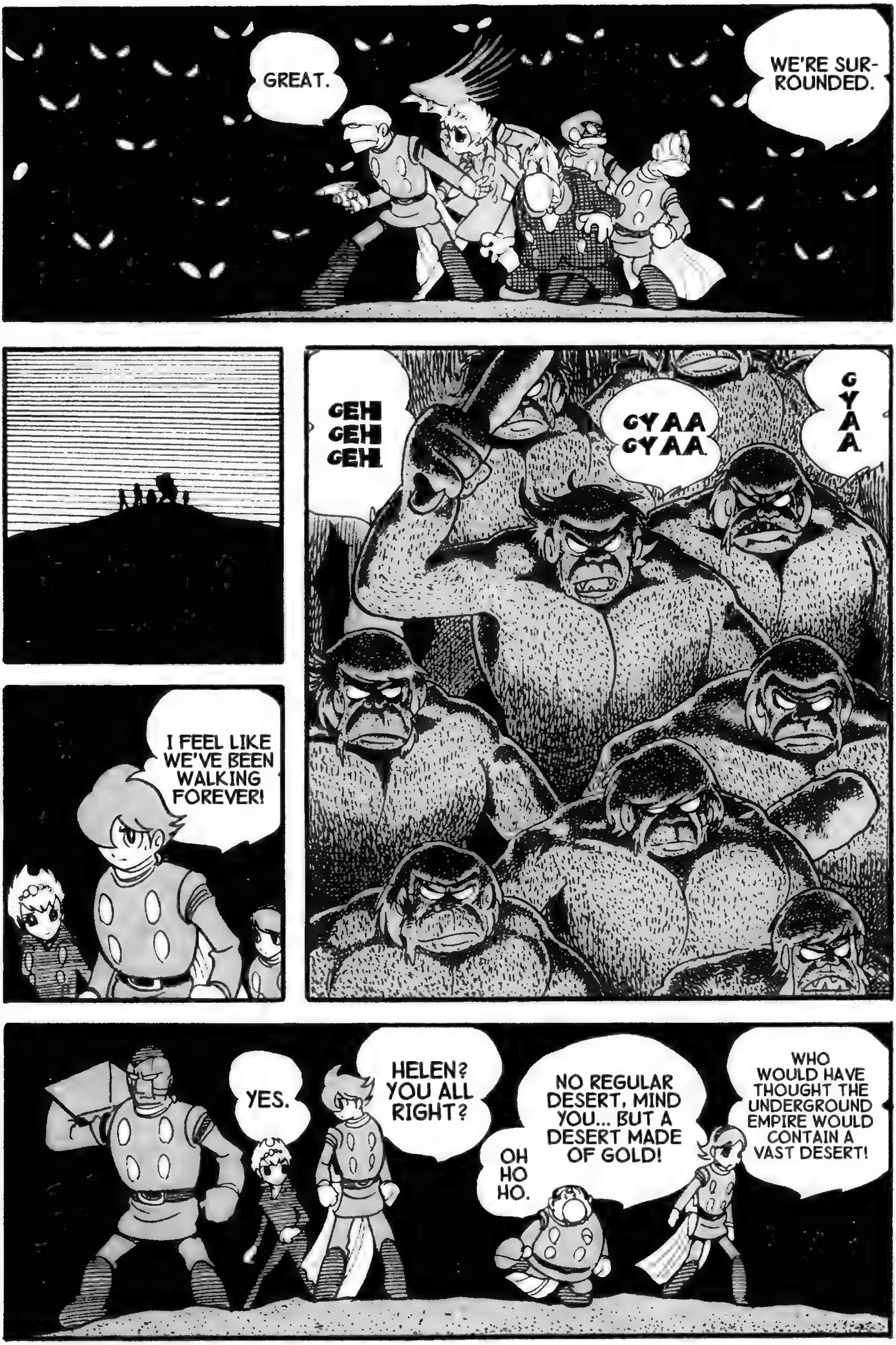

BWA HA HA!
THIS IS EVEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED! I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT FLEE TOGETHER...
...BUT THEY SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS!
......
WITH THEIR STRENGTH DIVIDED...
BWA HA HA! THEY WON'T STAND A CHANCE!
DIANA, ALERT VENUS TO OUR PROGRESS!
YES.
CHFFFF
SSSSSSS
FWUP
WHUMP
WHUMP

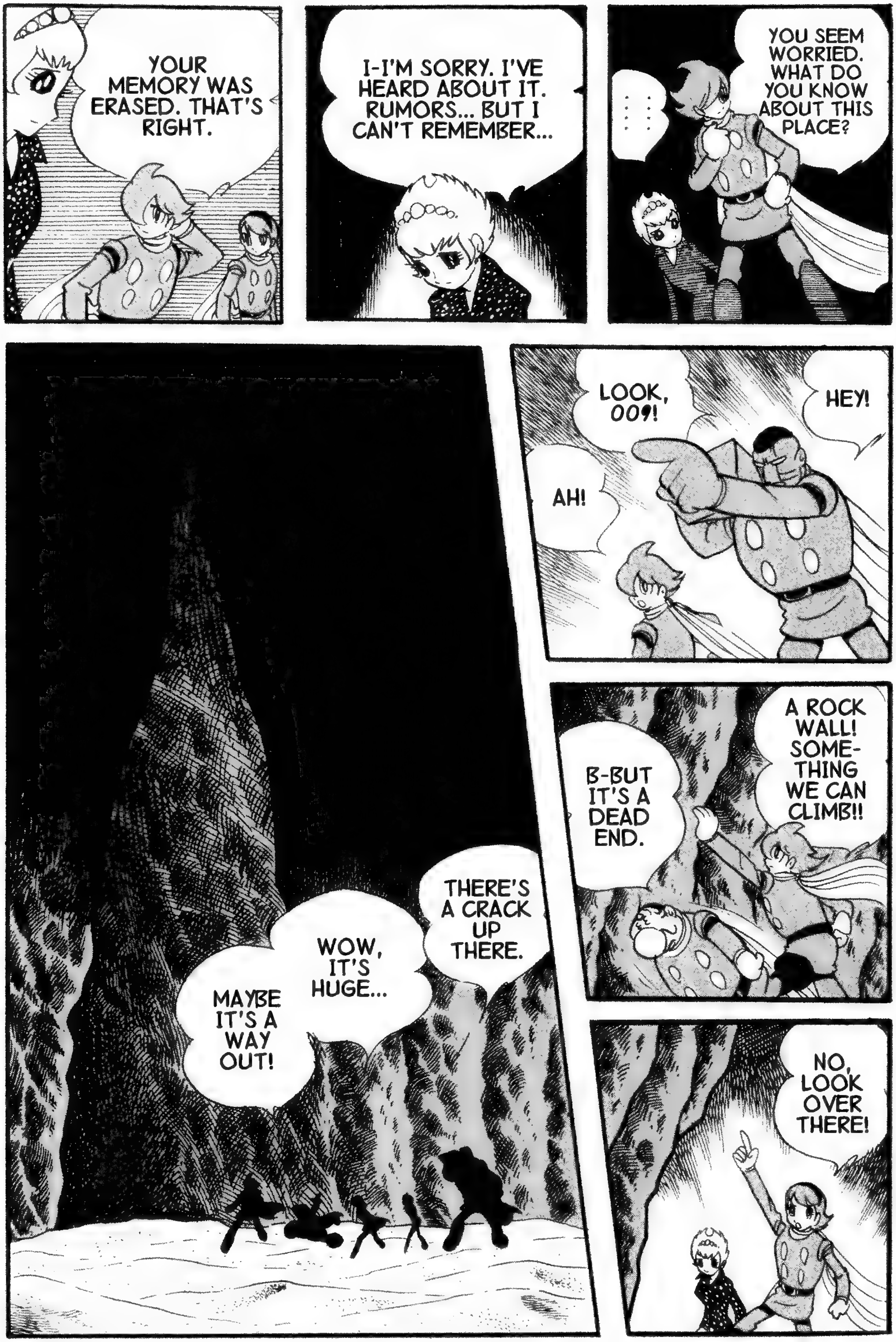

HMM...
UHH.
WOW! CAN YOU BELIEVE 001 SLEPT THROUGH ALL THAT?
スヤスヤ
ZZZ
ZZZ
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THEY'RE STILL ABOVE US.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET UP THERE.
IT'S NO USE.
CHFFFF
ALL RIGHT.
DASH
CHIK

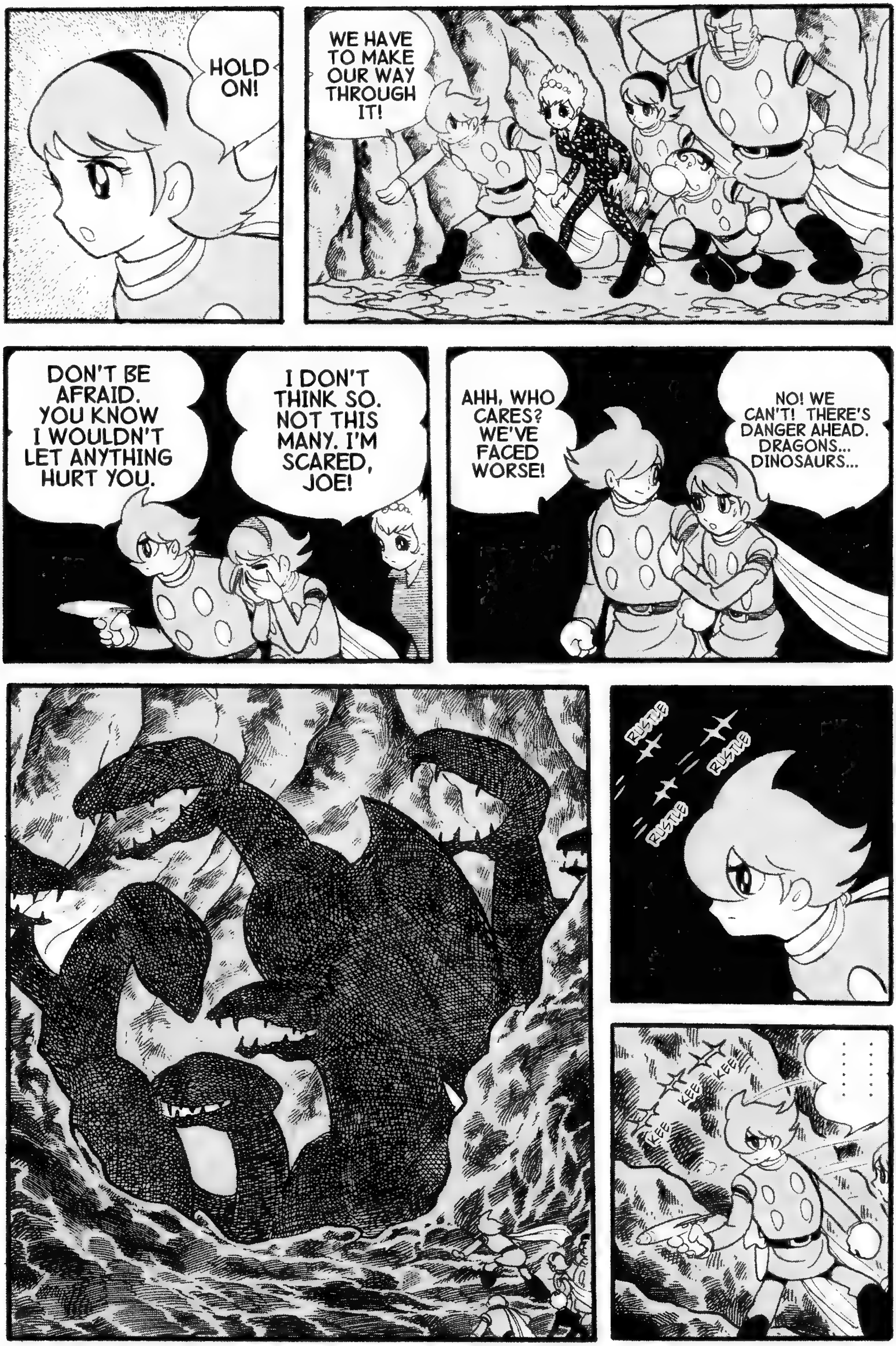

CHFFF
009!
FWUP
CHFFFF
OH!
THIS IS HELL.
SO...
AND WHEREVER I LAND, THE SAND GIVES WAY. WE MIGHT AS WELL BE TRYING TO CLIMB A WATERFALL.
...IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STUCK DOWN HERE. THE HOLE IS TOO HIGH UP.
UNTIL I FIGURE SOMETHING OUT...
HUFF HUFF HUFF
WHERE SHOULD WE START?
SINCE WE CAN'T CLIMB OUT OF HERE, I SUGGEST WE TRY TO FIGURE OUT ANOTHER EXIT.
TH-THAT BUG MONSTER WON'T COME OUT, WILL IT?
SHIVER
IT'S LIKE WE FELL INTO THE DEPTHS OF HELL.

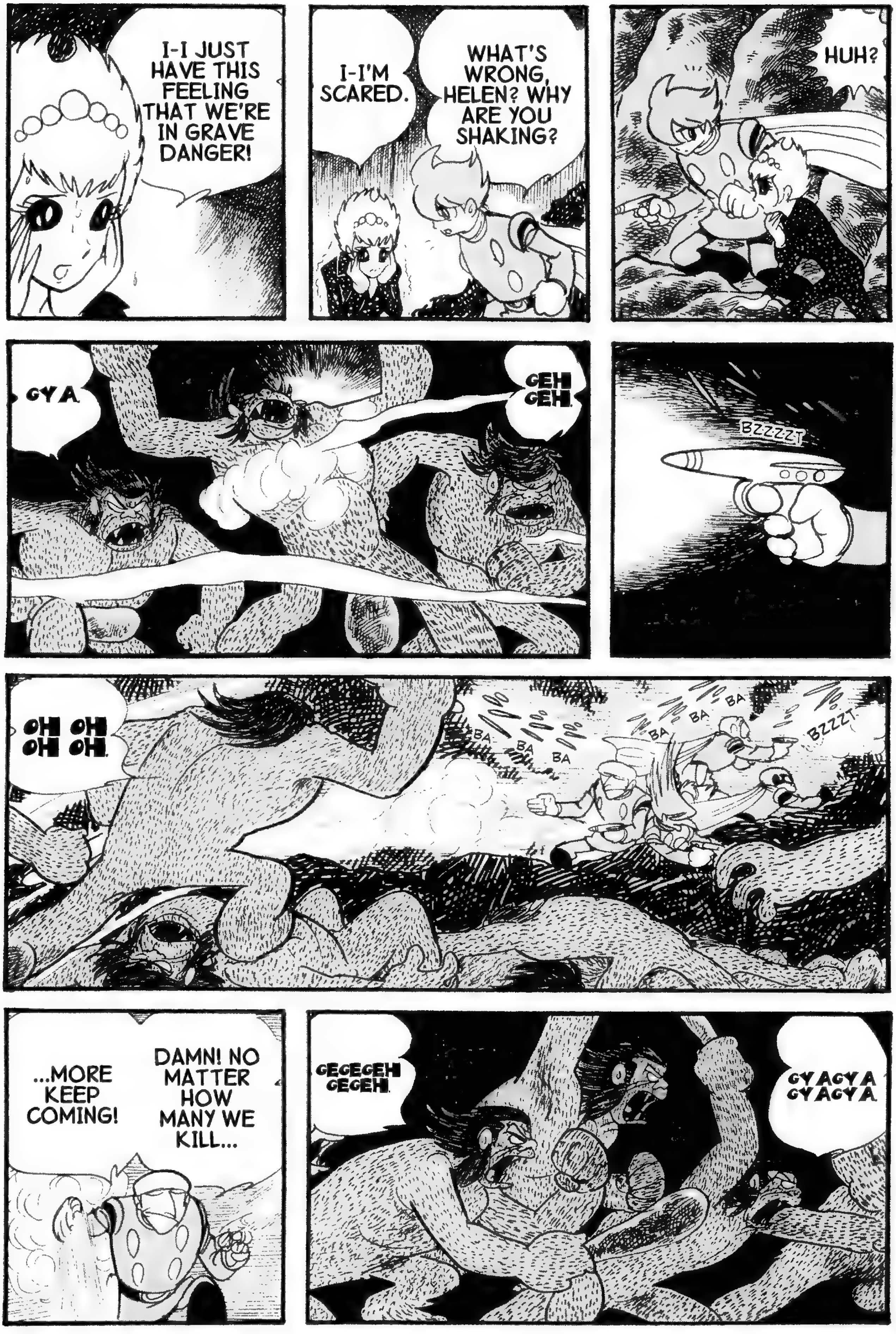

WHAT ARE YOU DOING 006?
I DON'T THINK THIS IS SAND...
IT SHINES LIKE...
...GOLD DUST!
WOO HOO! I'M RICH.
IF WE CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE, IT'LL BE WORTHLESS.
UH, RIGHT.
HO HO HO.
DAMN! THE DRILL IS STILL UP THERE. IT'S LIKE HE'S WAITING FOR US.
AND I DIDN'T SEE 009 OR THE OTHERS ANYWHERE.
I THINK THEY FELL INTO THE OTHER HOLE.
IS THERE ANY WAY TO GET OVER THERE FROM HERE?
WE REALLY SHOULD TRY TO STAY TOGETHER.
I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT?

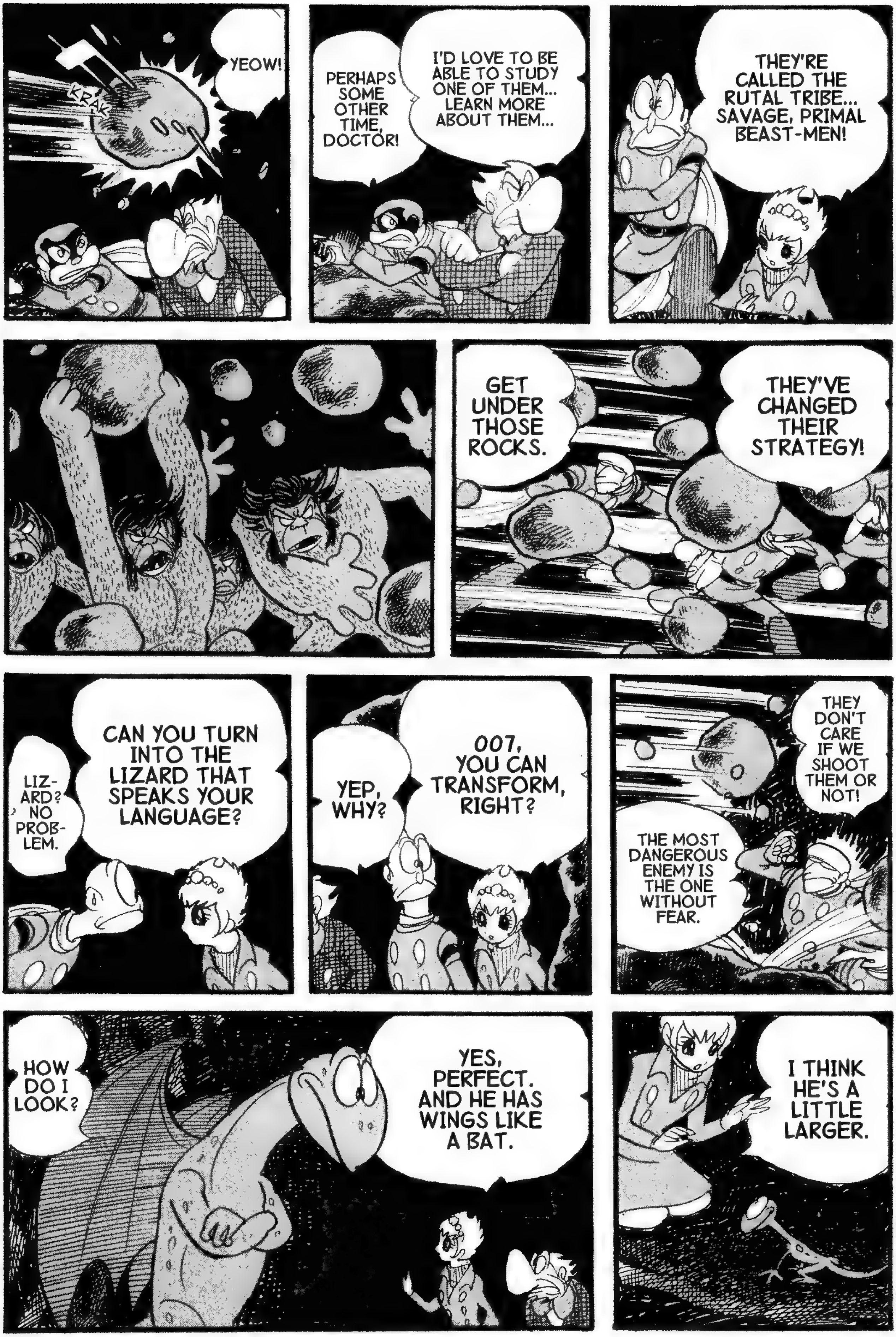

THEY'RE WANDERING AROUND... LOOKING FOR AN EXIT.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA! MAYBE WE SHOULD DO THE SAME.
ZOUNDS! I FORGOT. HELEN AND VENUS CAN COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY.
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THEY'RE DOING NOW?
DON'T WORRY. VENUS AND THE OTHERS ARE FINE.
ALTHOUGH I CAN READ HELEN'S MIND, SHE CANNOT READ MINE.
WE CAN KEEP COMMUNICATING THROUGH THE SISTERS AND EVENTUALLY MEET UP WITH THE OTHERS.
WE CAN'T.
THAT'S QUITE A DEBILITY HELEN HAS, ISN'T IT?
AND YOU ALSO SEEM TO KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND QUITE WELL.
I SWEAR... THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HERE.
I HAVE A BOND WITH HER MIND. THERE'S NOTHING SHE CAN HIDE FROM ME.
OH, RE-ALLY?
BUT I HAVE THIS STRANGE FAMILIARITY WITH THIS UNDERGROUND WORLD.
SHH!
WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

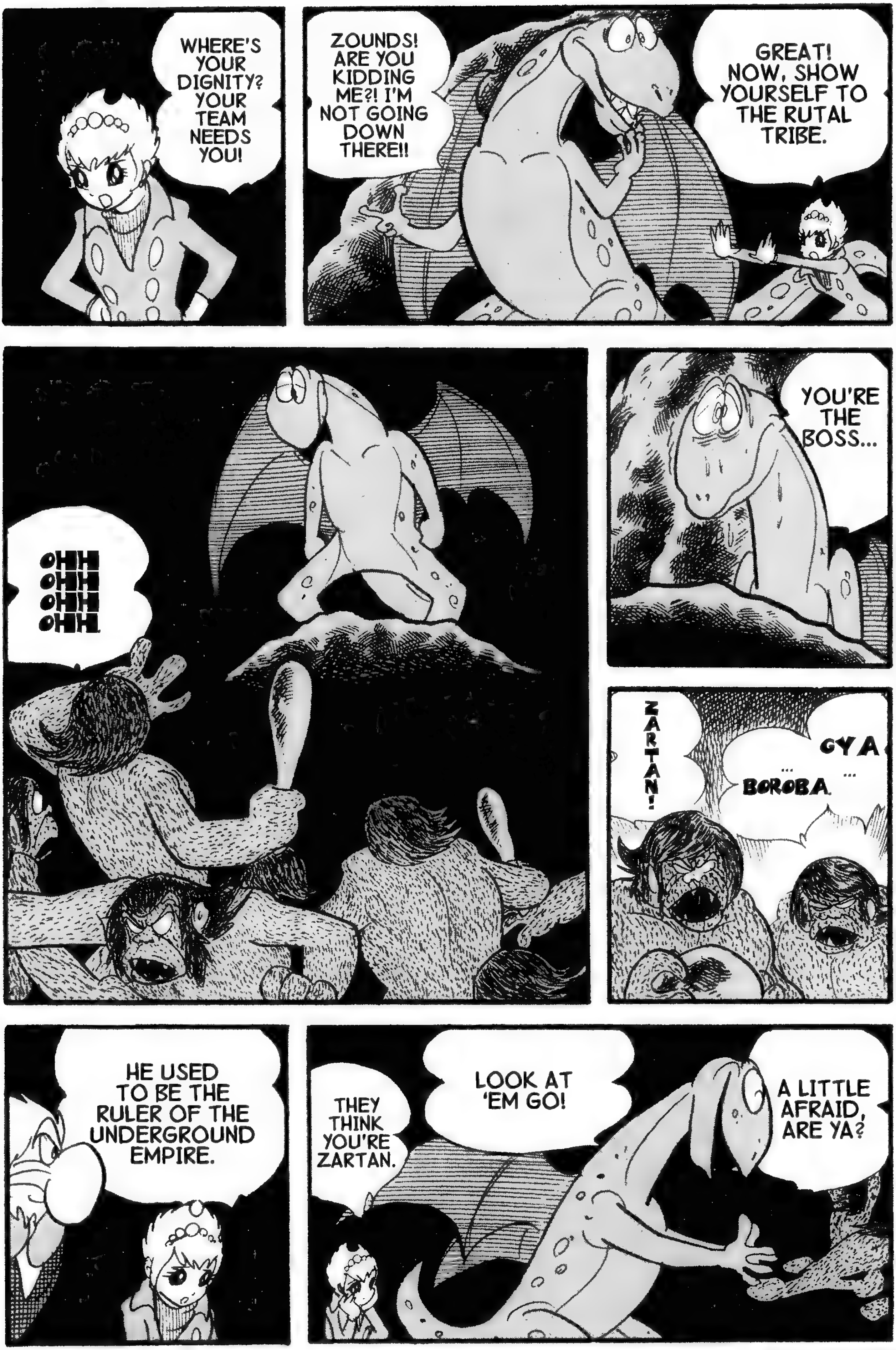

GREAT.
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOREVER!
GEH GEH GEH
GYAA GYAA
GYAA
HELEN? YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE WOULD CONTAIN A VAST DESERT!
NO REGULAR DESERT, MIND YOU... BUT A DESERT MADE OF GOLD!
OH HO HO.

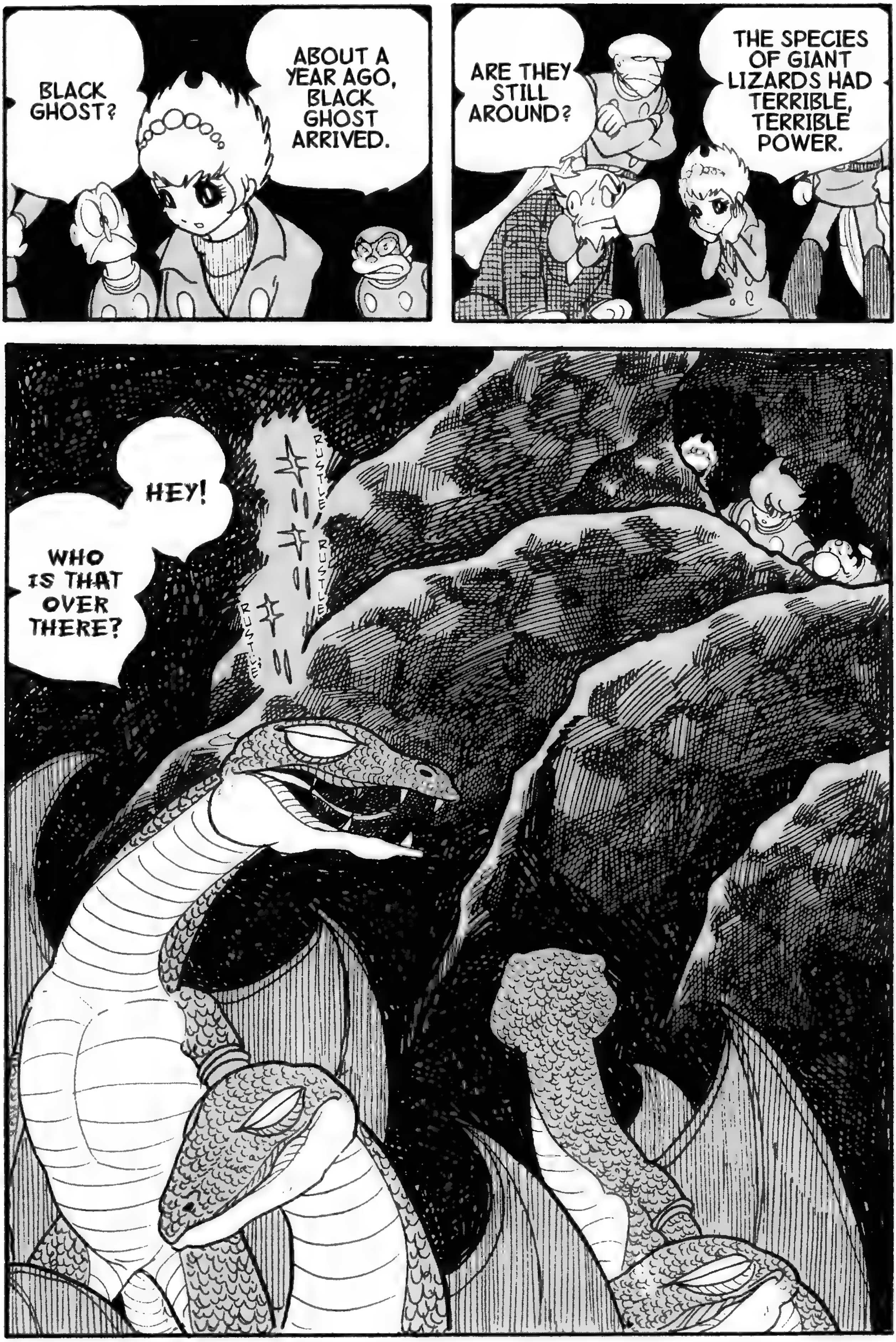

YOUR MEMORY WAS ERASED. THAT'S RIGHT.
I-I'M SORRY. I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT. RUMORS... BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER...
YOU SEEM WORRIED. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?
......
LOOK, 009!
HEY!
AH!
A ROCK WALL! SOMETHING WE CAN CLIMB!!
B-BUT IT'S A DEAD END.
NO, LOOK OVER THERE!
WOW, IT'S HUGE...
THERE'S A CRACK UP THERE.
MAYBE IT'S A WAY OUT!

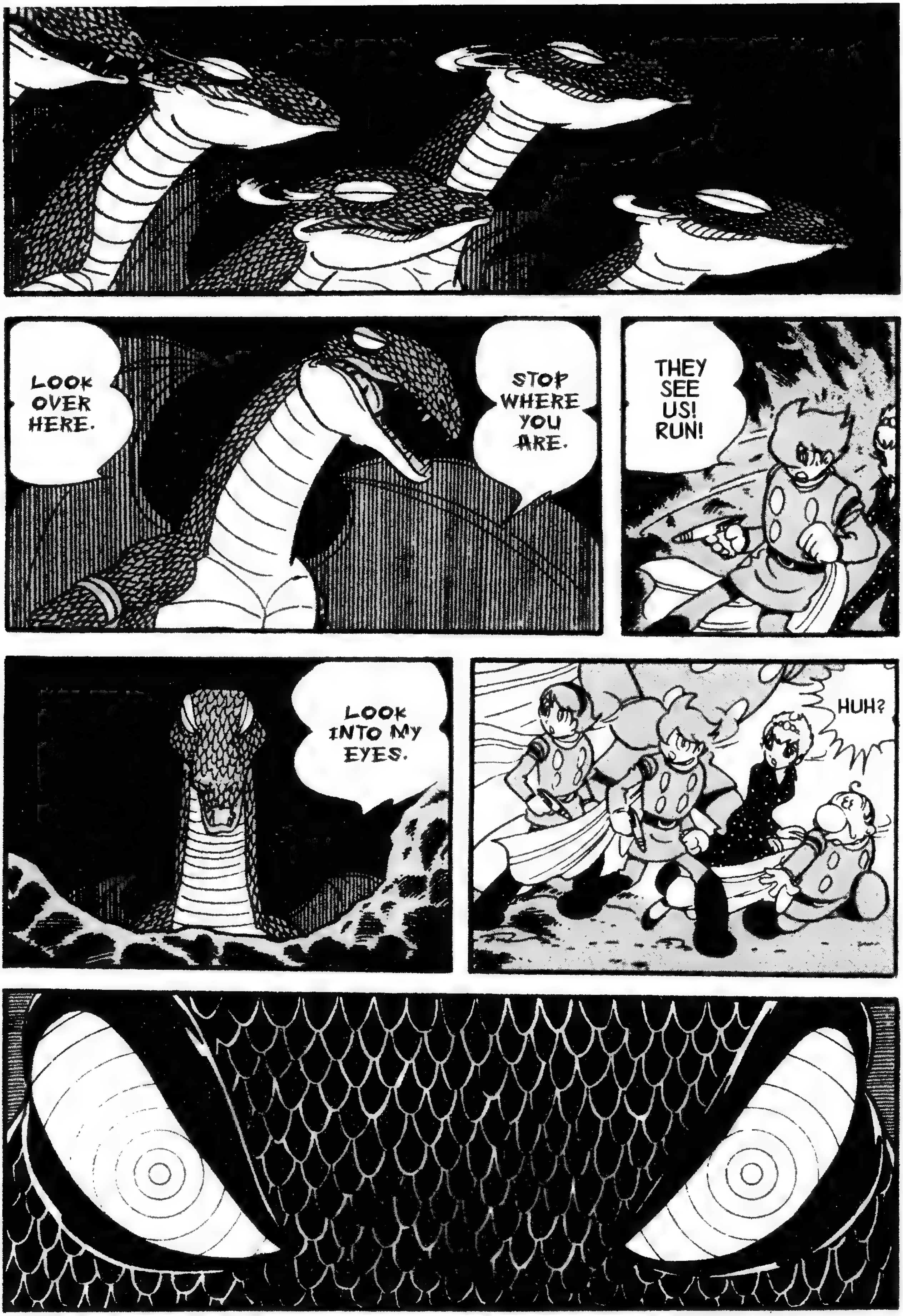

WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR WAY THROUGH IT!
HOLD ON!
NO! WE CAN'T! THERE'S DANGER AHEAD. DRAGONS... DINOSAURS...
AHH, WHO CARES? WE'VE FACED WORSE!
I DON'T THINK SO. NOT THIS MANY. I'M SCARED, JOE!
DON'T BE AFRAID. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING HURT YOU.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
KEE
KEE
KEE
......

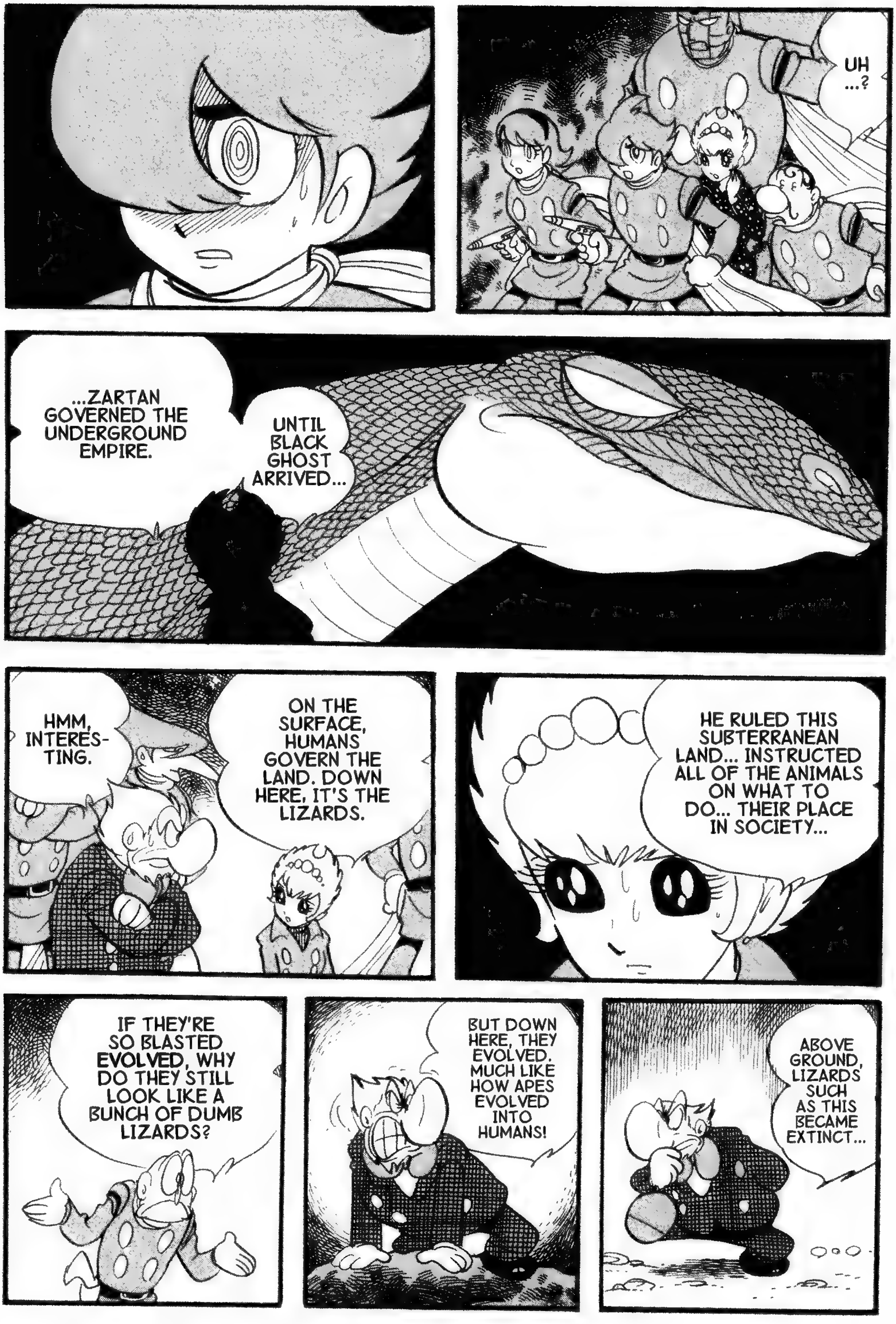

HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG, HELEN? WHY ARE YOU SHAKING?
I-I'M SCARED.
I-I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING THAT WE'RE IN GRAVE DANGER!
BZZZZT
GEH GEH.
GYA.
BZZZT
BA BA BA BA BA BA BA
OH OH OH OH.
GYAGYA GYAGYA.
GEGEGEH GEGEH.
DAMN! NO MATTER HOW MANY WE KILL...
...MORE KEEP COMING!

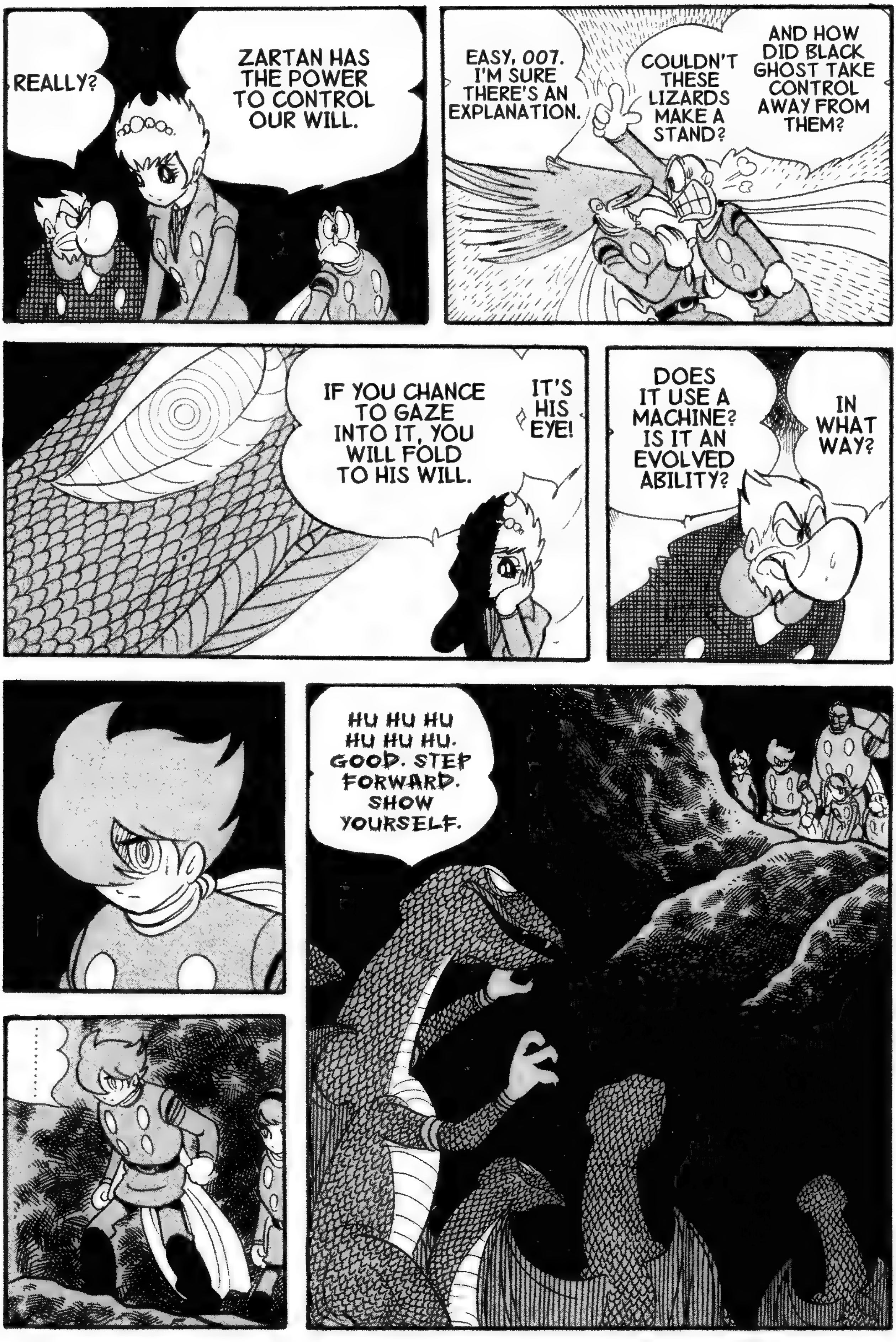

KRAK
YEOW!
I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO STUDY ONE OF THEM... LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM...
PERHAPS SOME OTHER TIME, DOCTOR!
THEY'RE CALLED THE RUTAL TRIBE... SAVAGE, PRIMAL BEAST-MEN!
THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR STRATEGY!
GET UNDER THOSE ROCKS.
CAN YOU TURN INTO THE LIZARD THAT SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE?
LIZARD? NO PROBLEM.
007, YOU CAN TRANSFORM, RIGHT?
YEP, WHY?
THEY DON'T CARE IF WE SHOOT THEM OR NOT!
THE MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY IS THE ONE WITHOUT FEAR.
HOW DO I LOOK?
YES, PERFECT. AND HE HAS WINGS LIKE A BAT.
I THINK HE'S A LITTLE LARGER.

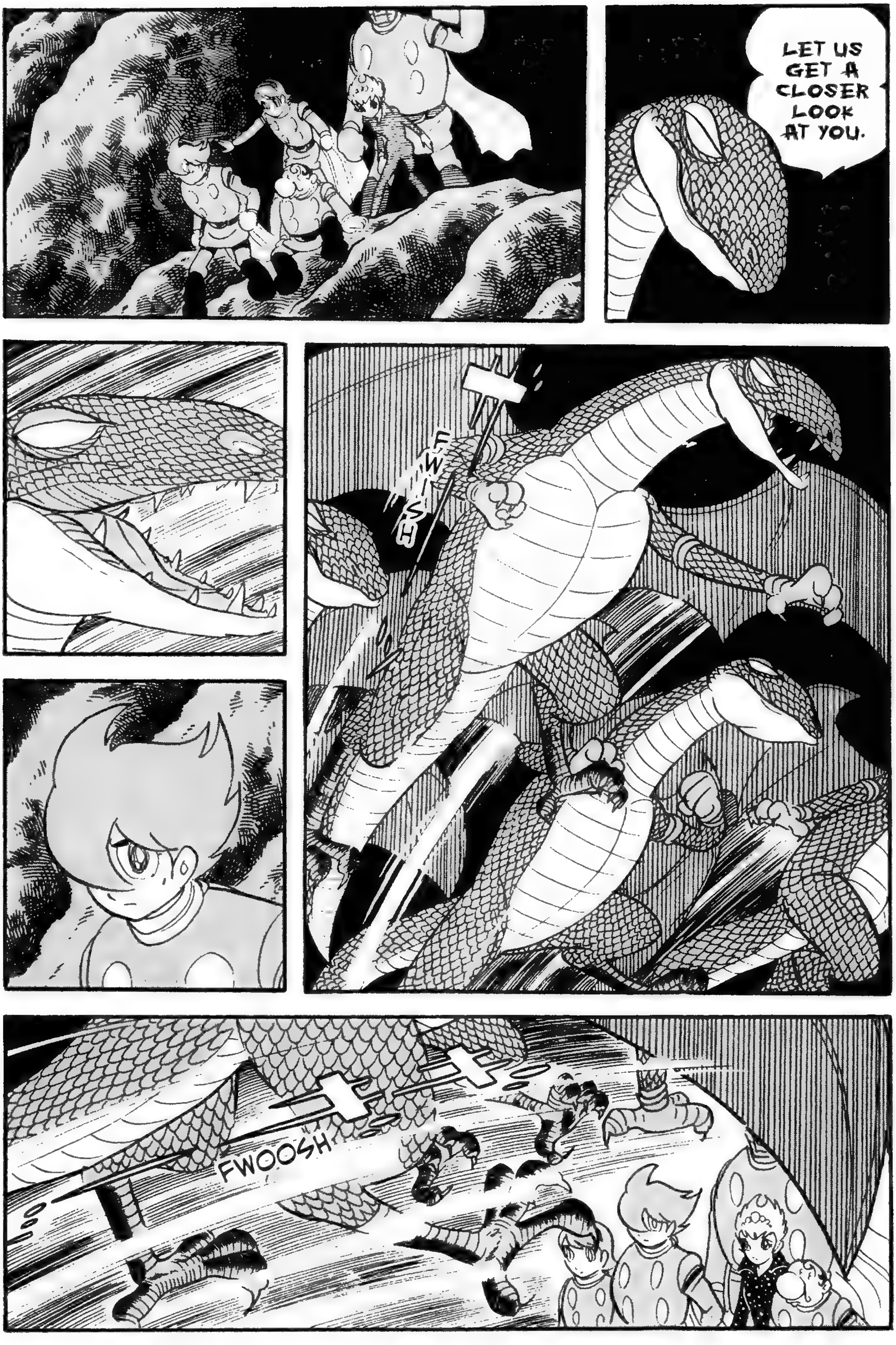

WHERE'S YOUR DIGNITY? YOUR TEAM NEEDS YOU!
ZOUNDS! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! I'M NOT GOING DOWN THERE!!
GREAT! NOW, SHOW YOURSELF TO THE RUTAL TRIBE.
OHH OHH OHH OHH
YOU'RE THE BOSS...
ZARTAN!
GYA ... BOROBA ...
HE USED TO BE THE RULER OF THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE.
THEY THINK YOU'RE ZARTAN.
LOOK AT 'EM GO!
A LITTLE AFRAID, ARE YA?

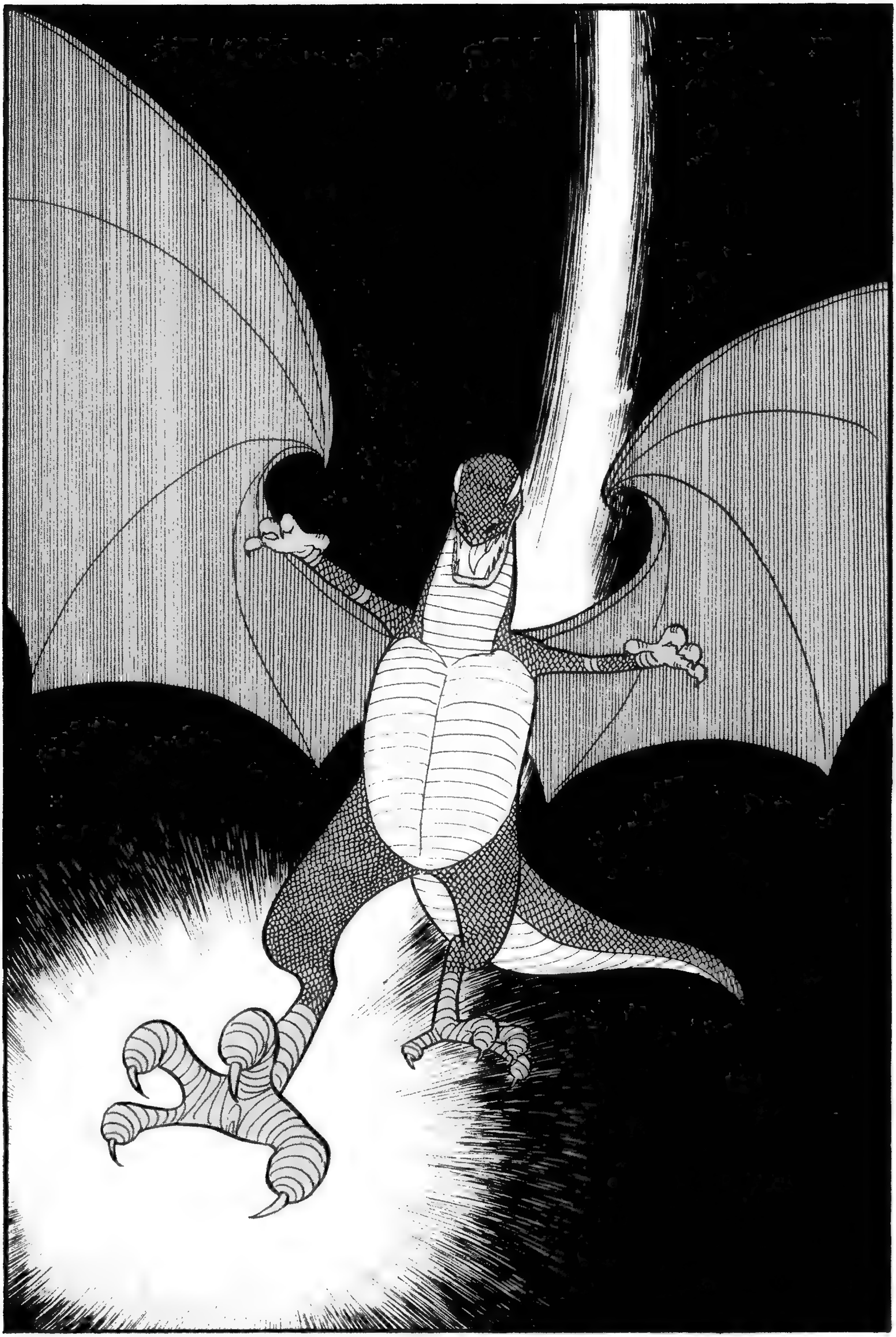

BLACK GHOST?
ABOUT A YEAR AGO, BLACK GHOST ARRIVED.
ARE THEY STILL AROUND?
THE SPECIES OF GIANT LIZARDS HAD TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE POWER.
HEY!
WHO IS THAT OVER THERE?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

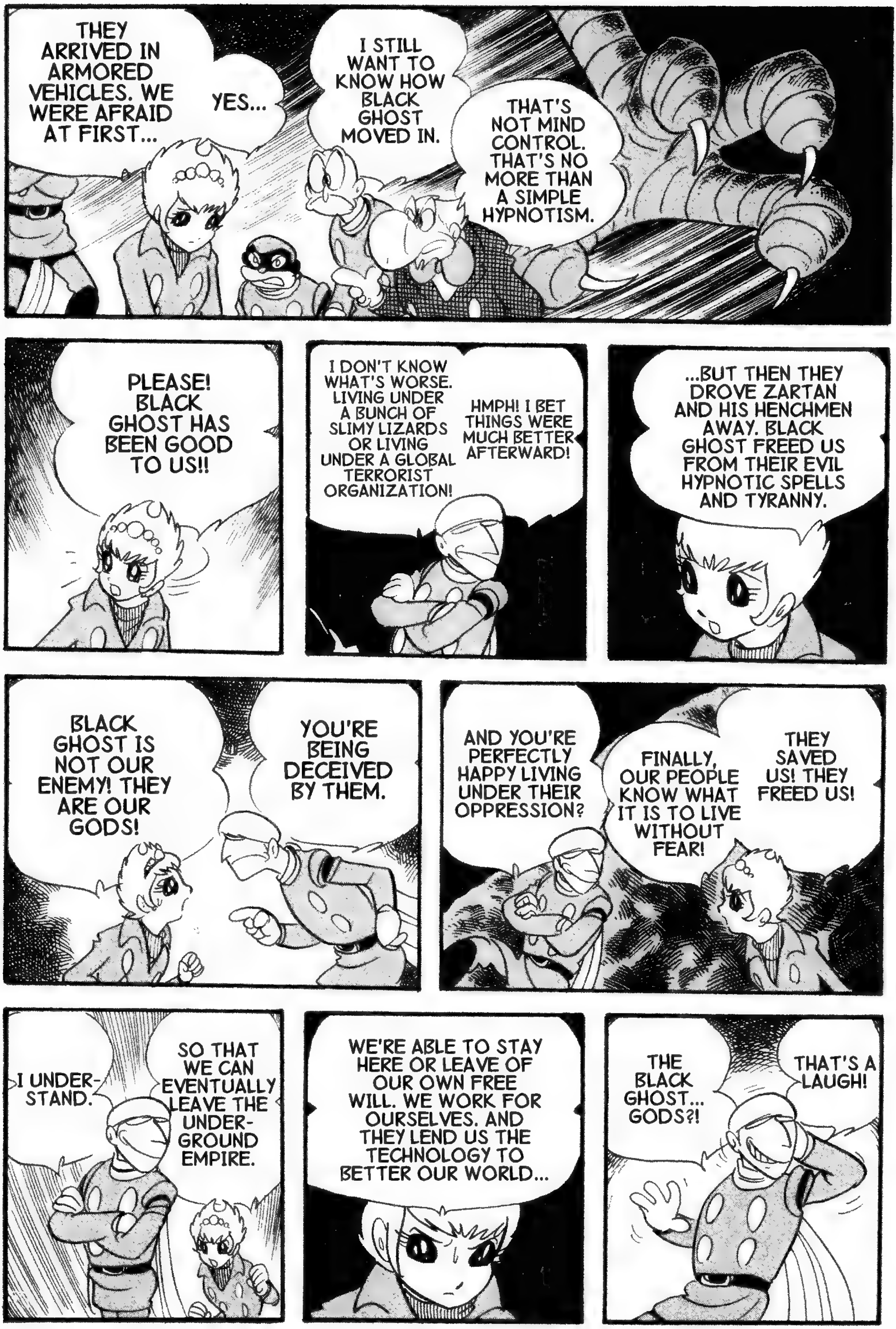

LOOK OVER HERE.
STOP WHERE YOU ARE.
THEY SEE US! RUN!
LOOK INTO MY EYES.
HUH?

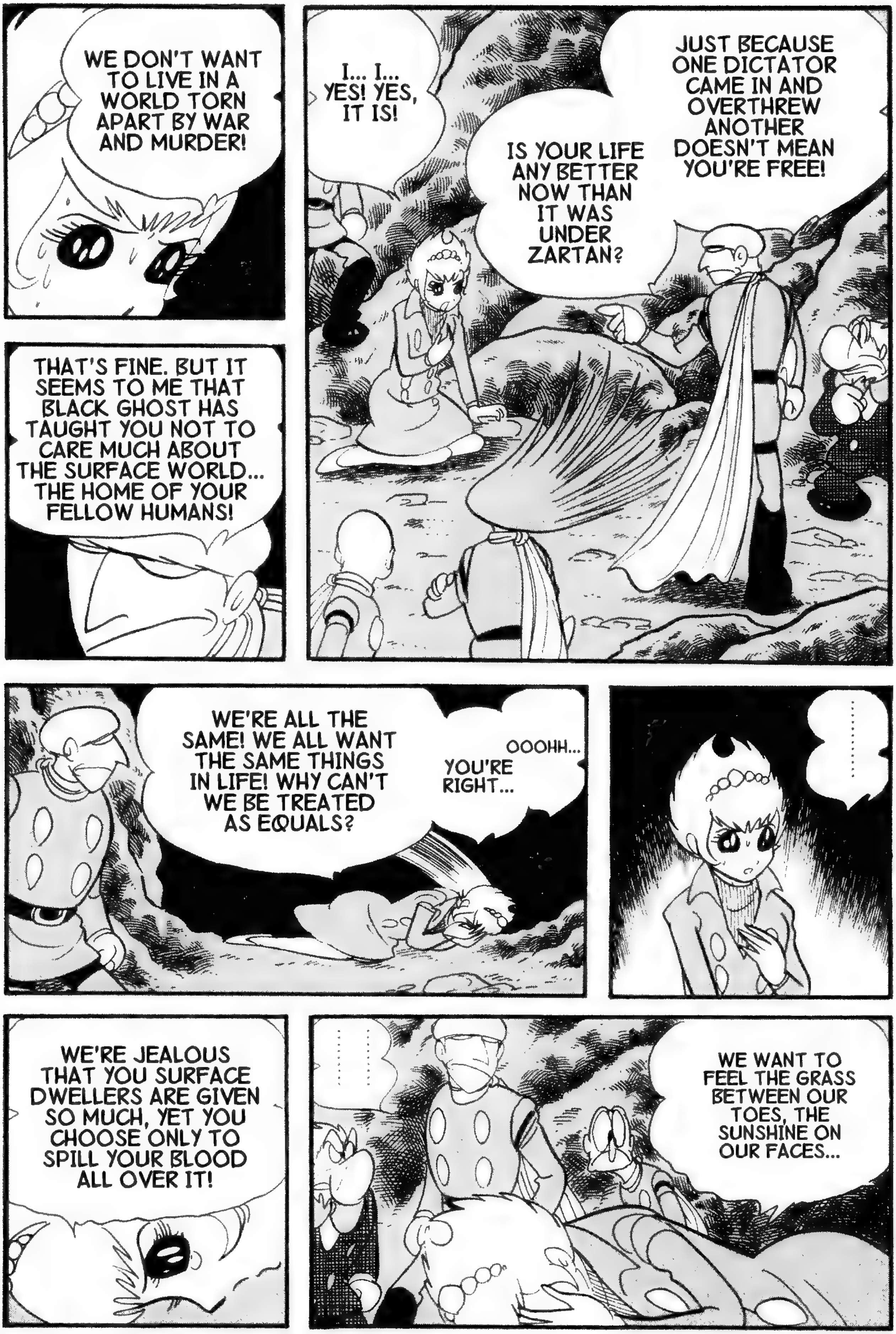

UH ...?
UNTIL BLACK GHOST ARRIVED...
...ZARTAN GOVERNED THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE.
HE RULED THIS SUBTERRANEAN LAND... INSTRUCTED ALL OF THE ANIMALS ON WHAT TO DO... THEIR PLACE IN SOCIETY...
ON THE SURFACE, HUMANS GOVERN THE LAND. DOWN HERE, IT'S THE LIZARDS.
HMM, INTERESTING.
ABOVE GROUND, LIZARDS SUCH AS THIS BECAME EXTINCT...
BUT DOWN HERE, THEY EVOLVED. MUCH LIKE HOW APES EVOLVED INTO HUMANS!
IF THEY'RE SO BLASTED **EVOLVED**, WHY DO THEY STILL LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF DUMB LIZARDS?

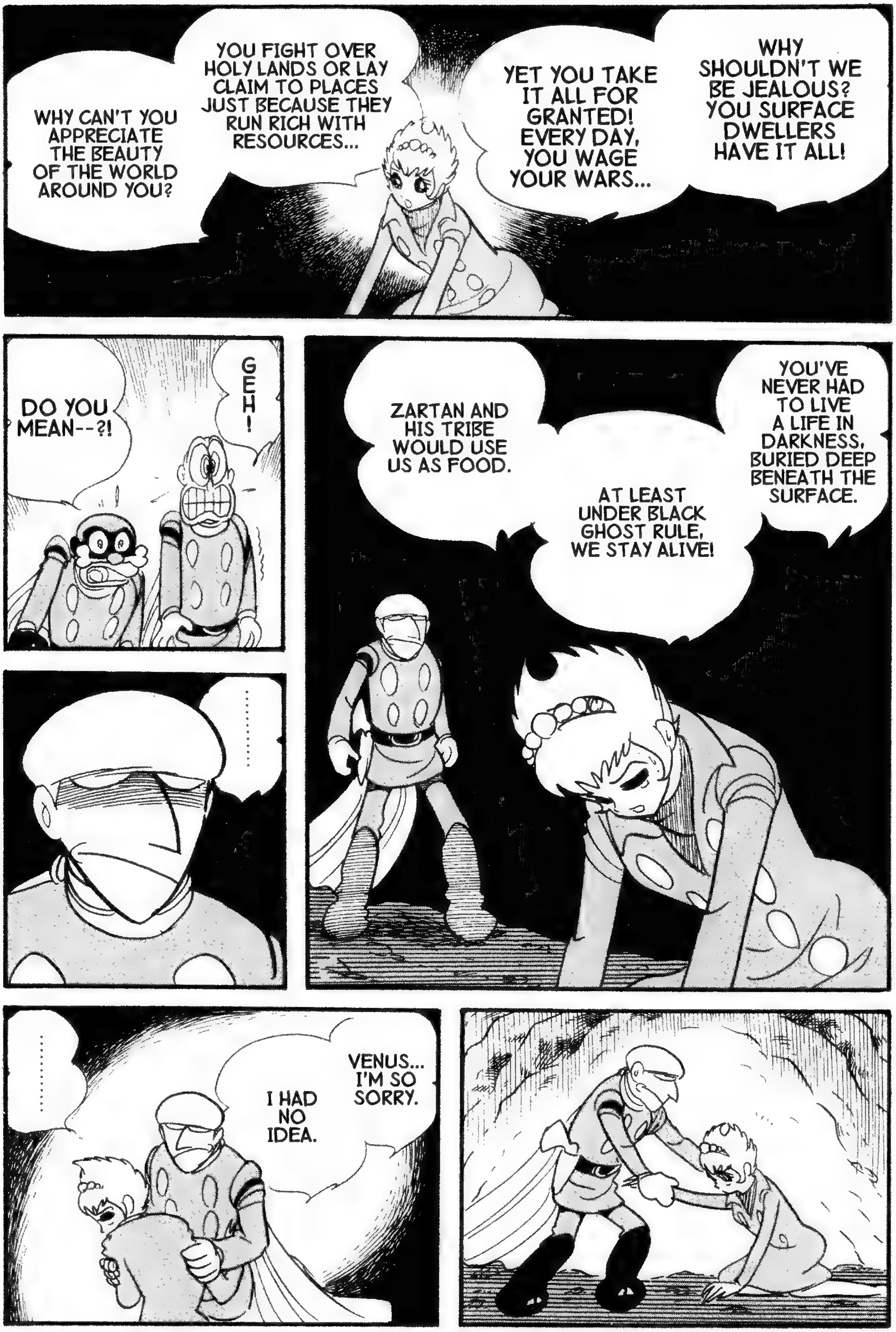

AND HOW DID BLACK GHOST TAKE CONTROL AWAY FROM THEM?
COULDN'T THESE LIZARDS MAKE A STAND?
EASY, 007. I'M SURE THERE'S AN EXPLANATION.
ZARTAN HAS THE POWER TO CONTROL OUR WILL.
REALLY?
IN WHAT WAY?
DOES IT USE A MACHINE? IS IT AN EVOLVED ABILITY?
IT'S HIS EYE!
IF YOU CHANCE TO GAZE INTO IT, YOU WILL FOLD TO HIS WILL.
HU HU HU HU HU HU. GOOD. STEP FORWARD. SHOW YOURSELF.
……

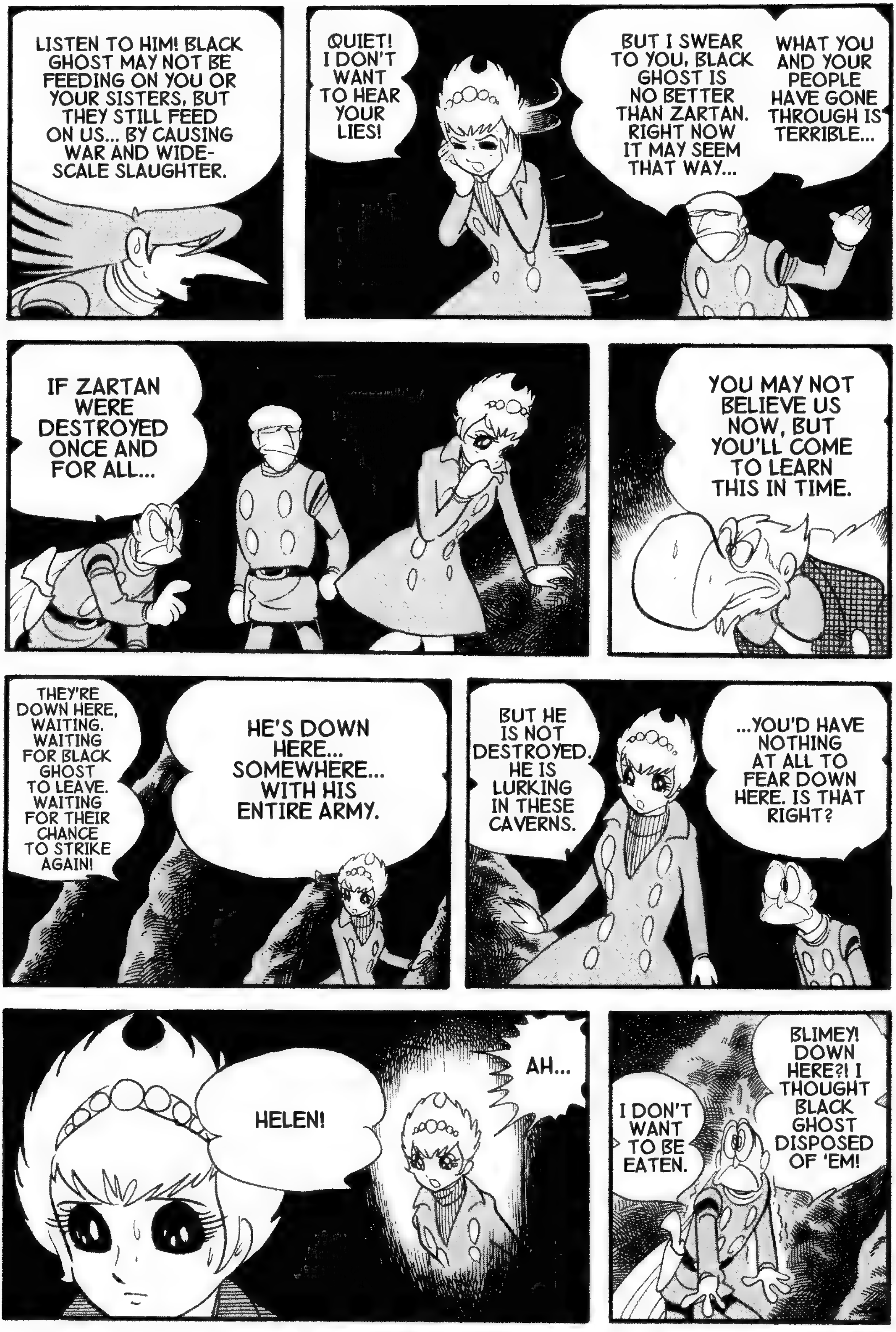

LET US GET A CLOSER LOOK AT YOU.
FWISH
FWOOSH

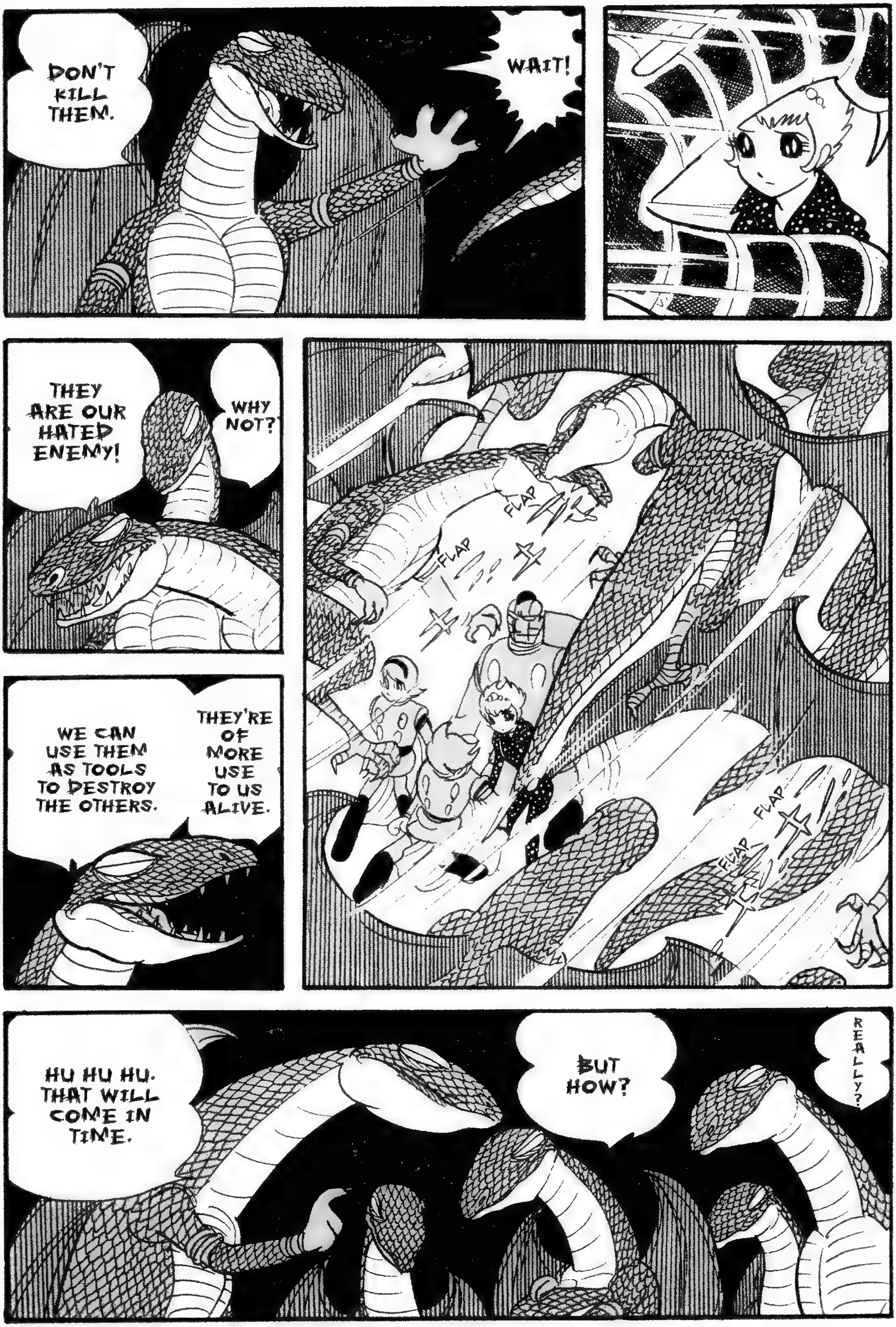


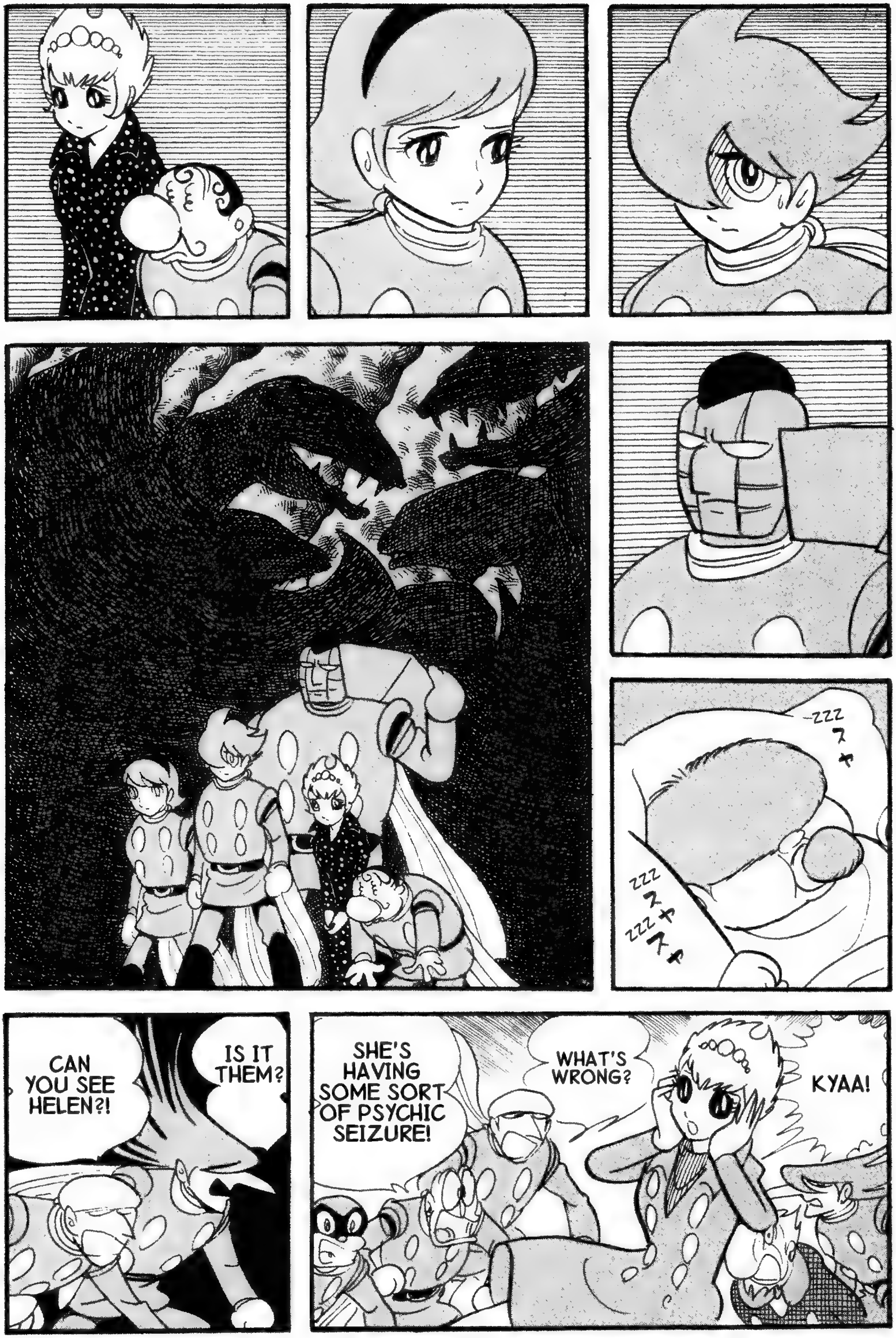

THEY ARRIVED IN ARMORED VEHICLES. WE WERE AFRAID AT FIRST...
YES...
I STILL WANT TO KNOW HOW BLACK GHOST MOVED IN.
THAT'S NOT MIND CONTROL. THAT'S NO MORE THAN A SIMPLE HYPNOTISM.
PLEASE! BLACK GHOST HAS BEEN GOOD TO US!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE. LIVING UNDER A BUNCH OF SLIMY LIZARDS OR LIVING UNDER A GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION!
HMPH! I BET THINGS WERE MUCH BETTER AFTERWARD!
...BUT THEN THEY DROVE ZARTAN AND HIS HENCHMEN AWAY. BLACK GHOST FREED US FROM THEIR EVIL HYPNOTIC SPELLS AND TYRANNY.
BLACK GHOST IS NOT OUR ENEMY! THEY ARE OUR GODS!
YOU'RE BEING DECEIVED BY THEM.
AND YOU'RE PERFECTLY HAPPY LIVING UNDER THEIR OPPRESSION?
FINALLY, OUR PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IT IS TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR!
THEY SAVED US! THEY FREED US!
I UNDERSTAND.
SO THAT WE CAN EVENTUALLY LEAVE THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE.
WE'RE ABLE TO STAY HERE OR LEAVE OF OUR OWN FREE WILL. WE WORK FOR OURSELVES. AND THEY LEND US THE TECHNOLOGY TO BETTER OUR WORLD...
THE BLACK GHOST... GODS?!
THAT'S A LAUGH!

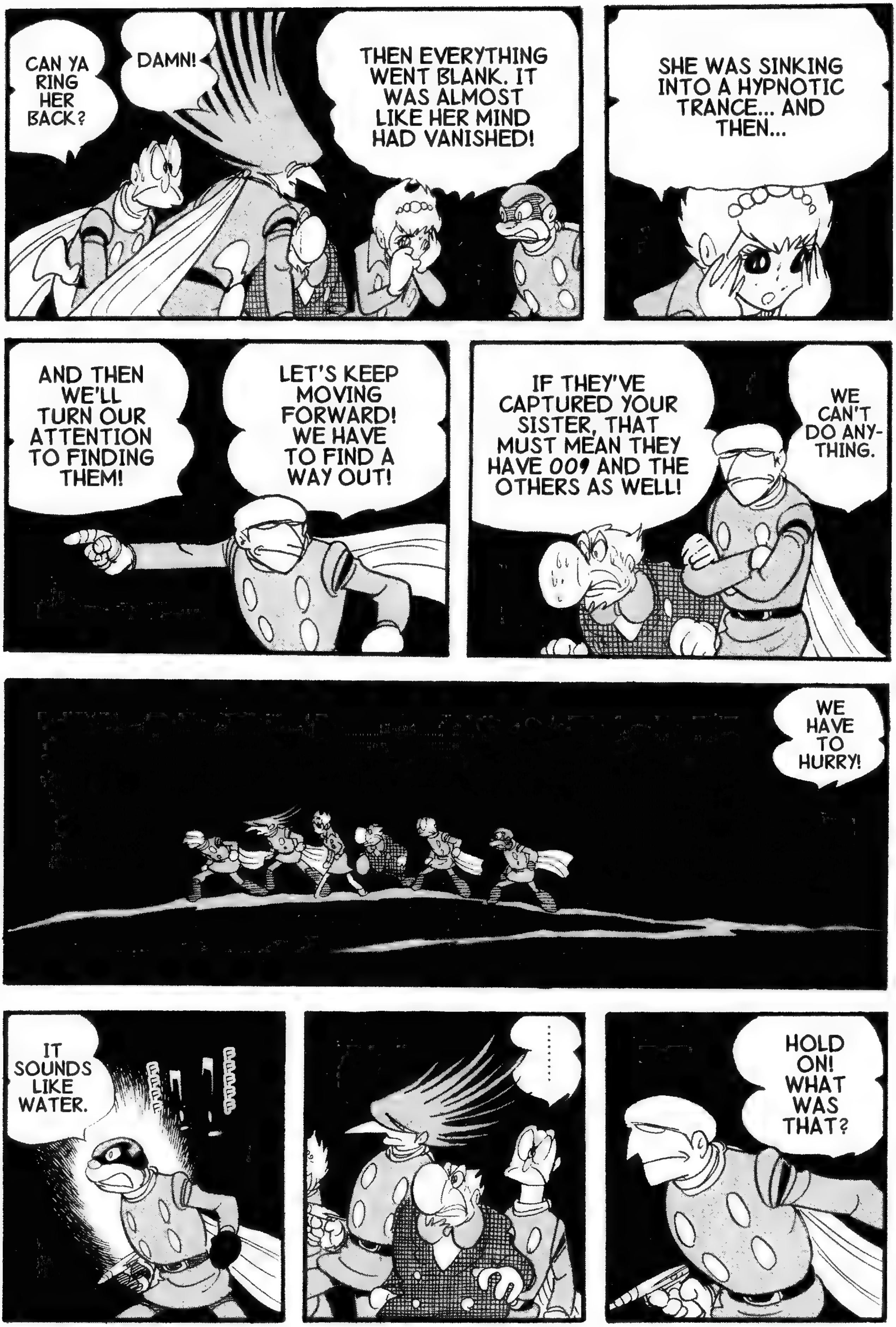

WE DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD TORN APART BY WAR AND MURDER!
THAT'S FINE. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BLACK GHOST HAS TAUGHT YOU NOT TO CARE MUCH ABOUT THE SURFACE WORLD... THE HOME OF YOUR FELLOW HUMANS!
JUST BECAUSE ONE DICTATOR CAME IN AND OVERTHREW ANOTHER DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE FREE!
IS YOUR LIFE ANY BETTER NOW THAN IT WAS UNDER ZARTAN?
I... I... YES! YES, IT IS!
WE'RE ALL THE SAME! WE ALL WANT THE SAME THINGS IN LIFE! WHY CAN'T WE BE TREATED AS EQUALS?
OOOHH... YOU'RE RIGHT...
......
WE'RE JEALOUS THAT YOU SURFACE DWELLERS ARE GIVEN SO MUCH, YET YOU CHOOSE ONLY TO SPILL YOUR BLOOD ALL OVER IT!
......
WE WANT TO FEEL THE GRASS BETWEEN OUR TOES, THE SUNSHINE ON OUR FACES...

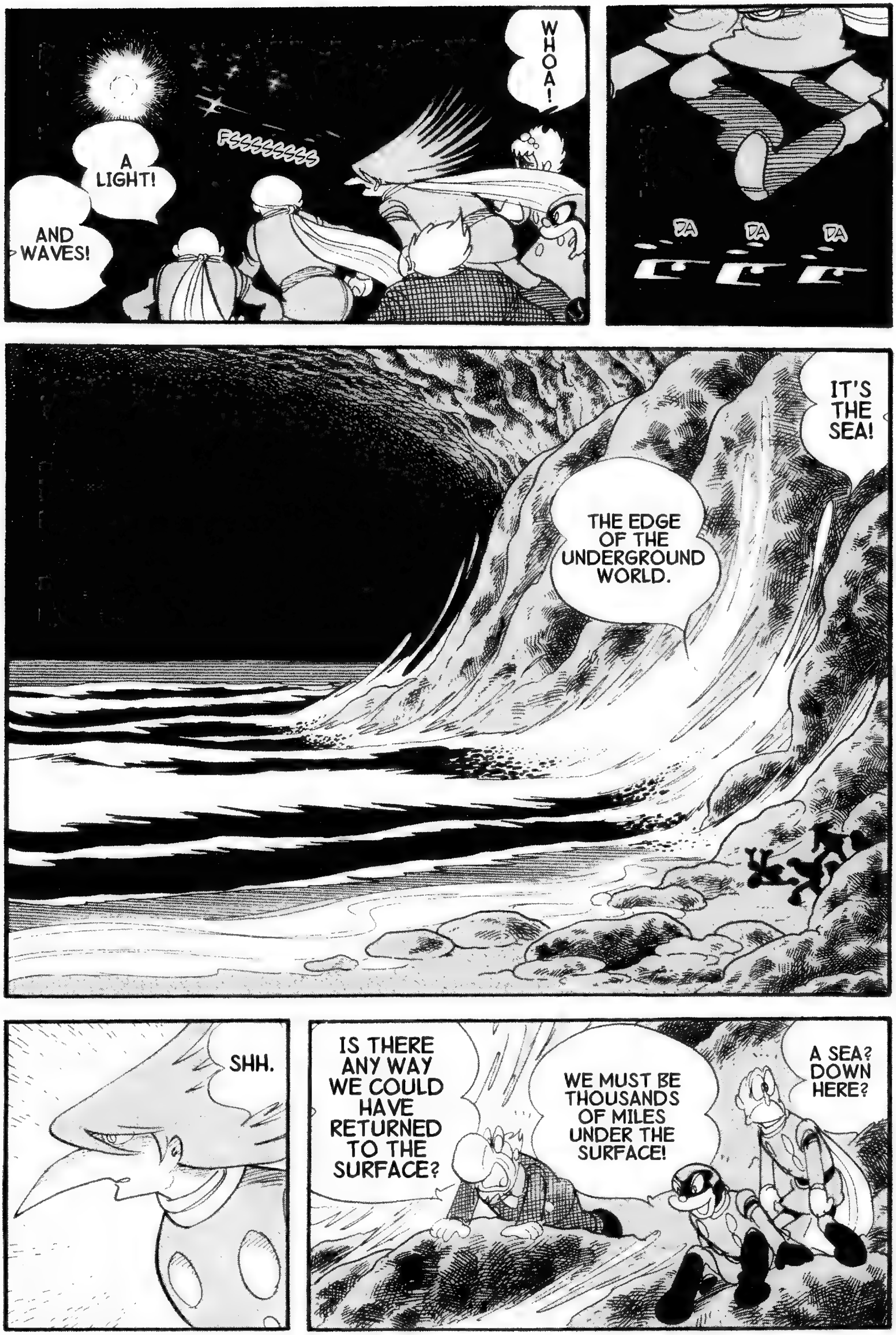

WHY SHOULDN'T WE BE JEALOUS? YOU SURFACE DWELLERS HAVE IT ALL!
YET YOU TAKE IT ALL FOR GRANTED! EVERY DAY, YOU WAGE YOUR WARS...
YOU FIGHT OVER HOLY LANDS OR LAY CLAIM TO PLACES JUST BECAUSE THEY RUN RICH WITH RESOURCES...
WHY CAN'T YOU APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD AROUND YOU?
YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO LIVE A LIFE IN DARKNESS, BURIED DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE.
ZARTAN AND HIS TRIBE WOULD USE US AS FOOD.
AT LEAST UNDER BLACK GHOST RULE, WE STAY ALIVE!
GEH!
DO YOU MEAN--?!
......
VENUS... I'M SO SORRY.
I HAD NO IDEA.
......

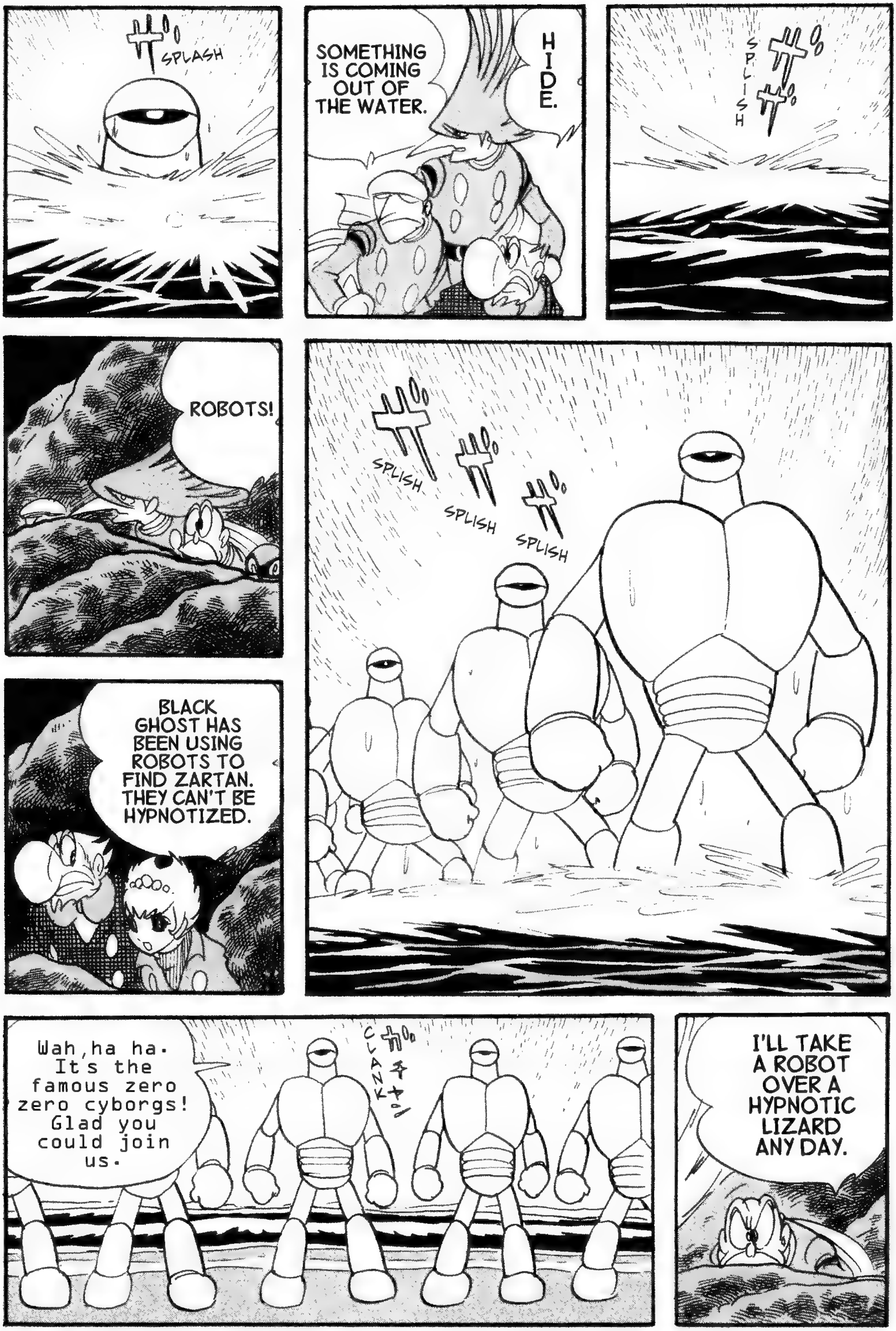

LISTEN TO HIM! BLACK GHOST MAY NOT BE FEEDING ON YOU OR YOUR SISTERS, BUT THEY STILL FEED ON US... BY CAUSING WAR AND WIDE-SCALE SLAUGHTER.
QUIET! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR LIES!
BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, BLACK GHOST IS NO BETTER THAN ZARTAN. RIGHT NOW IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY...
WHAT YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE GONE THROUGH IS TERRIBLE...
IF ZARTAN WERE DESTROYED ONCE AND FOR ALL...
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE US NOW, BUT YOU'LL COME TO LEARN THIS IN TIME.
THEY'RE DOWN HERE, WAITING. WAITING FOR BLACK GHOST TO LEAVE. WAITING FOR THEIR CHANCE TO STRIKE AGAIN!
HE'S DOWN HERE... SOMEWHERE... WITH HIS ENTIRE ARMY.
BUT HE IS NOT DESTROYED. HE IS LURKING IN THESE CAVERNS.
...YOU'D HAVE NOTHING AT ALL TO FEAR DOWN HERE. IS THAT RIGHT?
HELEN!
AH...
I DON'T WANT TO BE EATEN.
BLIMEY! DOWN HERE?! I THOUGHT BLACK GHOST DISPOSED OF 'EM!

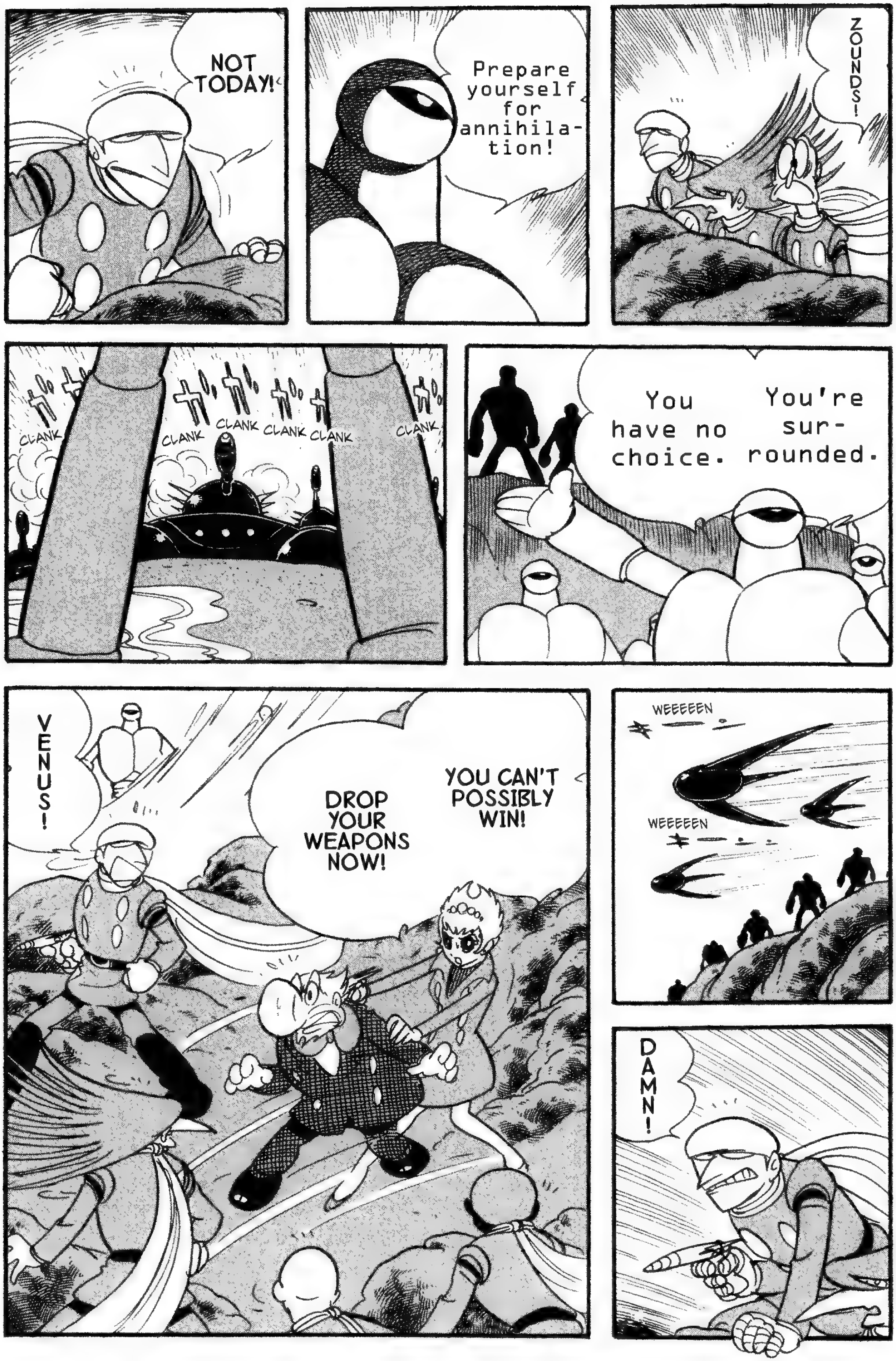

WAIT!
DON'T KILL THEM.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
WHY NOT?
THEY ARE OUR HATED ENEMY!
THEY'RE OF MORE USE TO US ALIVE.
WE CAN USE THEM AS TOOLS TO DESTROY THE OTHERS.
REALLY?
BUT HOW?
HU HU HU. THAT WILL COME IN TIME.

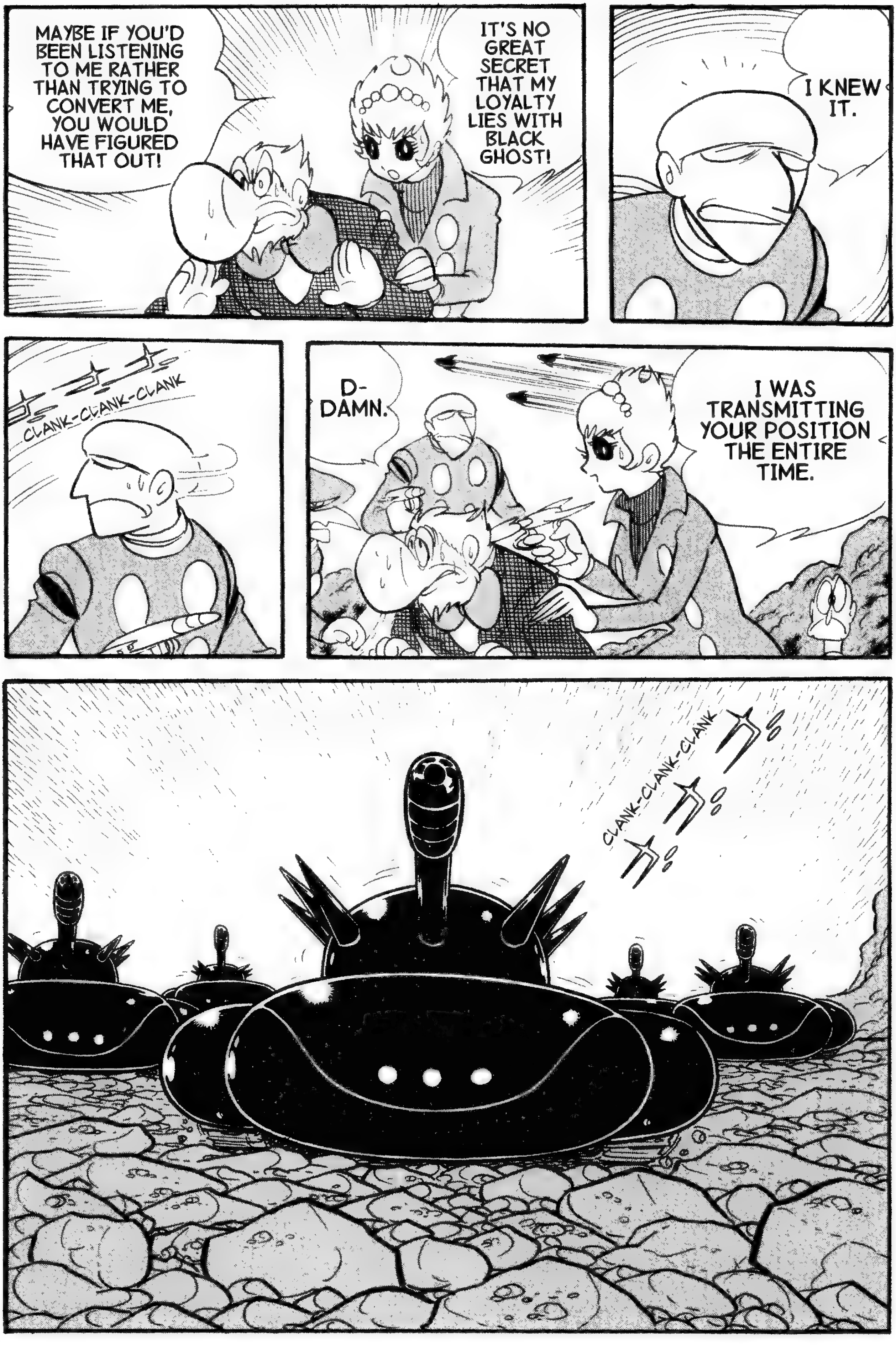

ZZZ スヤ
ZZZ スヤ
ZZZ スヤ
KYAA!
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHE'S HAVING SOME SORT OF PSYCHIC SEIZURE!
IS IT THEM?
CAN YOU SEE HELEN?!

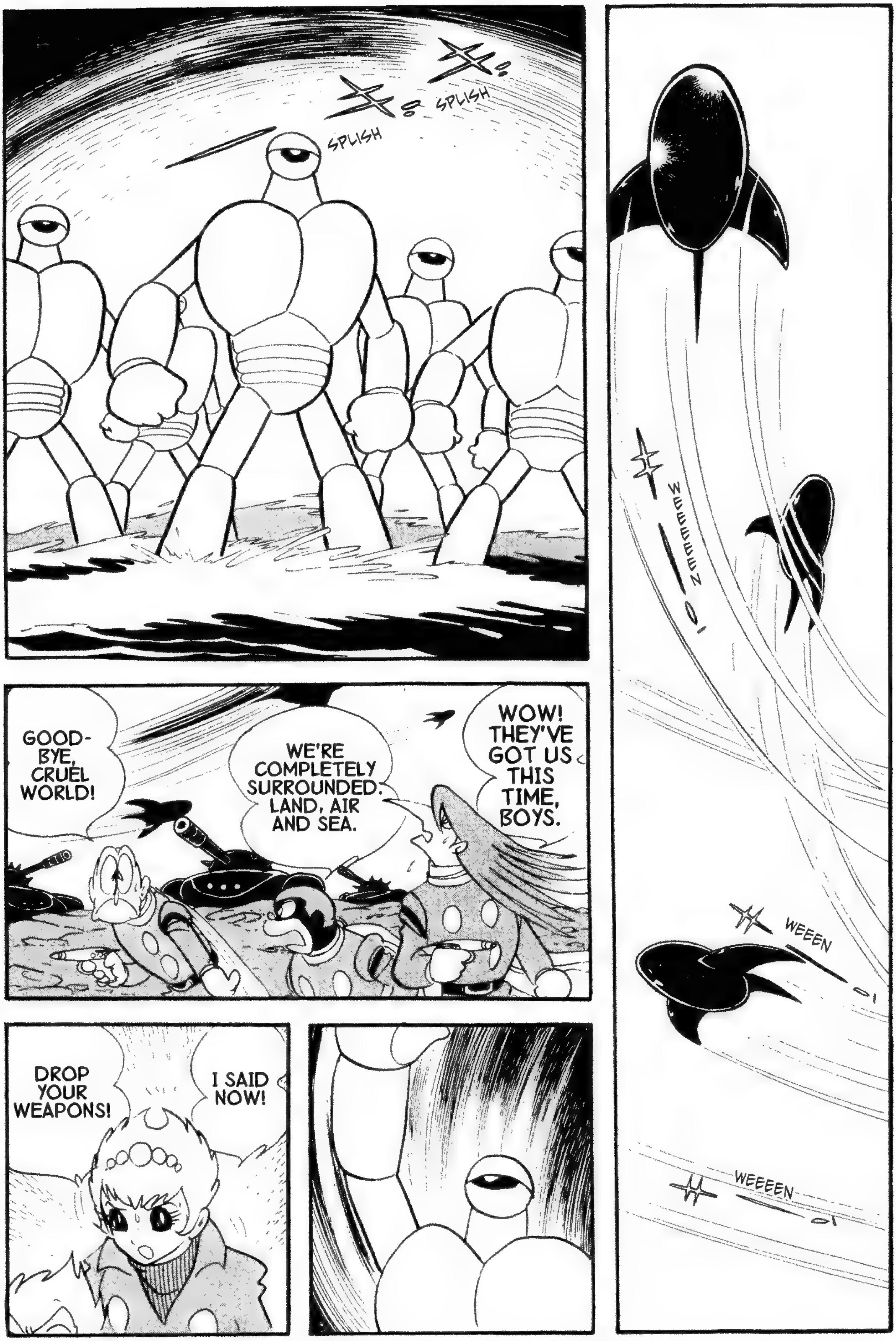

SHE WAS SINKING INTO A HYPNOTIC TRANCE... AND THEN...
THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLANK. IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HER MIND HAD VANISHED!
DAMN!
CAN YA RING HER BACK?
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
IF THEY'VE CAPTURED YOUR SISTER, THAT MUST MEAN THEY HAVE 009 AND THE OTHERS AS WELL!
LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD! WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY OUT!
AND THEN WE'LL TURN OUR ATTENTION TO FINDING THEM!
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
HOLD ON! WHAT WAS THAT?
......
FFFFF
FFFF
IT SOUNDS LIKE WATER.

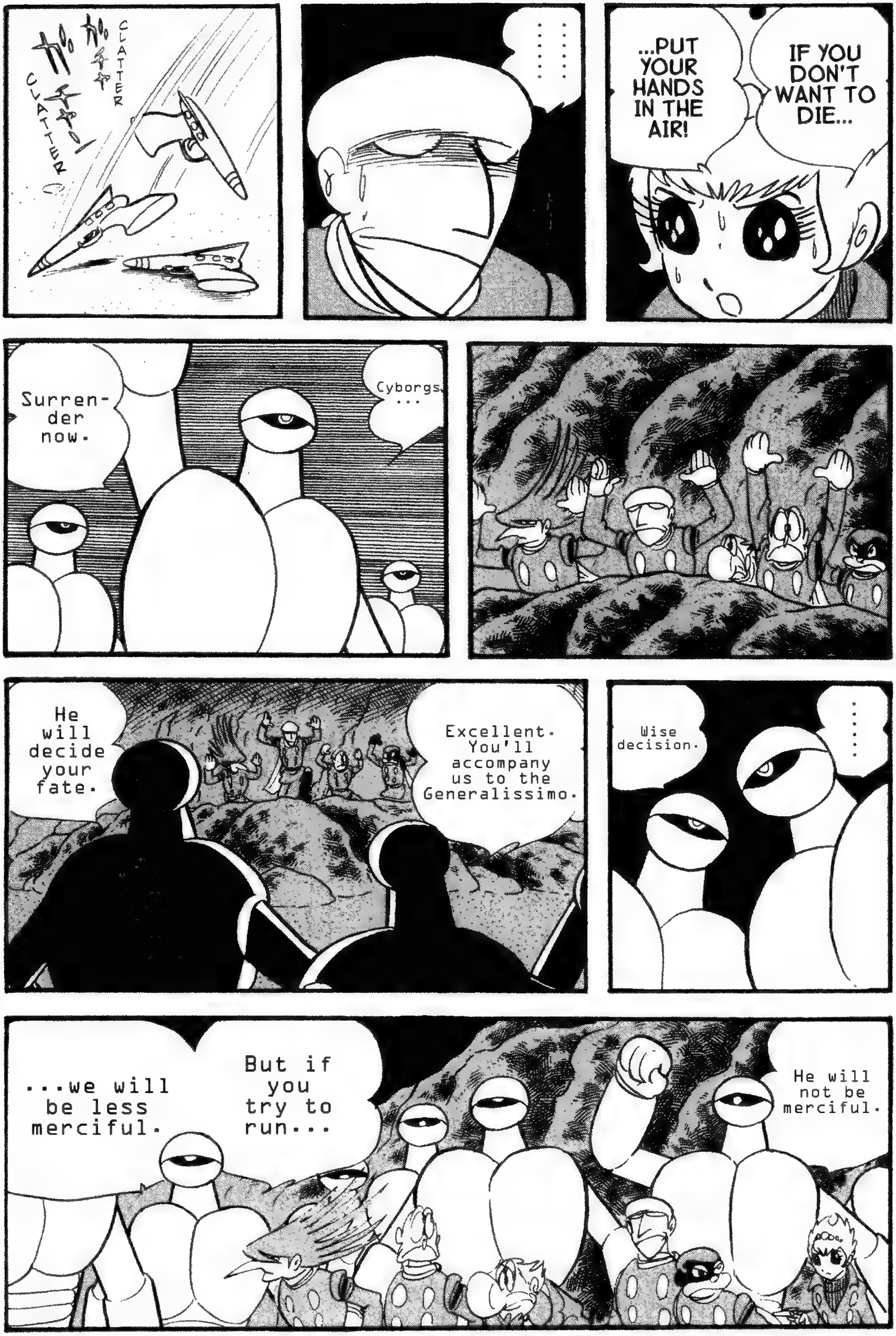

DA DA DA
WHOA!
FSSSSSSSS
A LIGHT!
AND WAVES!
IT'S THE SEA!
THE EDGE OF THE UNDERGROUND WORLD.
A SEA? DOWN HERE?
WE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF MILES UNDER THE SURFACE!
IS THERE ANY WAY WE COULD HAVE RETURNED TO THE SURFACE?
SHH.

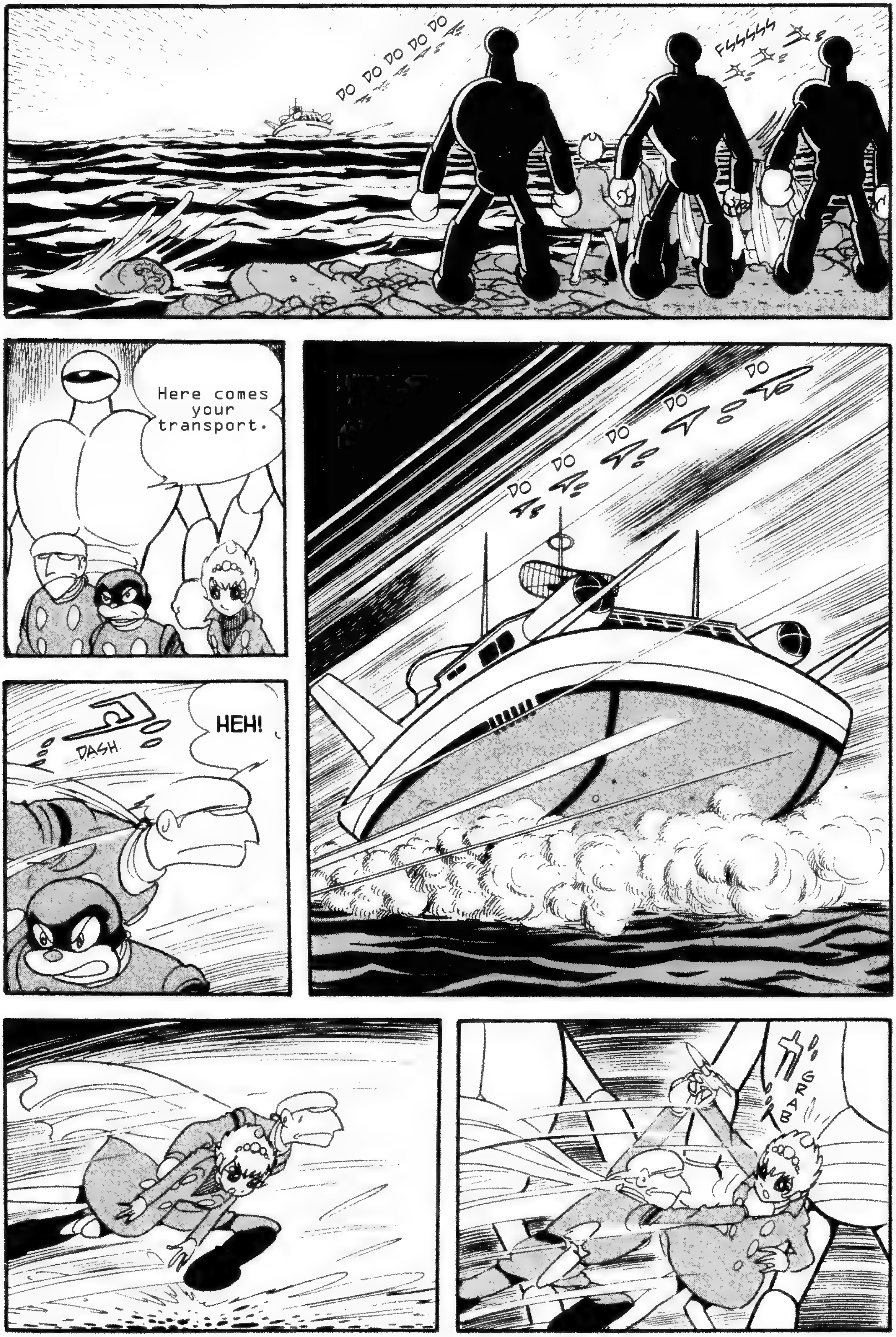

SPLASH
SOMETHING IS COMING OUT OF THE WATER.
HIDE.
SPLISH
ROBOTS!
BLACK GHOST HAS BEEN USING ROBOTS TO FIND ZARTAN. THEY CAN'T BE HYPNOTIZED.
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
Wah,ha ha. It's the famous zero zero cyborgs! Glad you could join us.
CLANK
I'LL TAKE A ROBOT OVER A HYPNOTIC LIZARD ANY DAY.

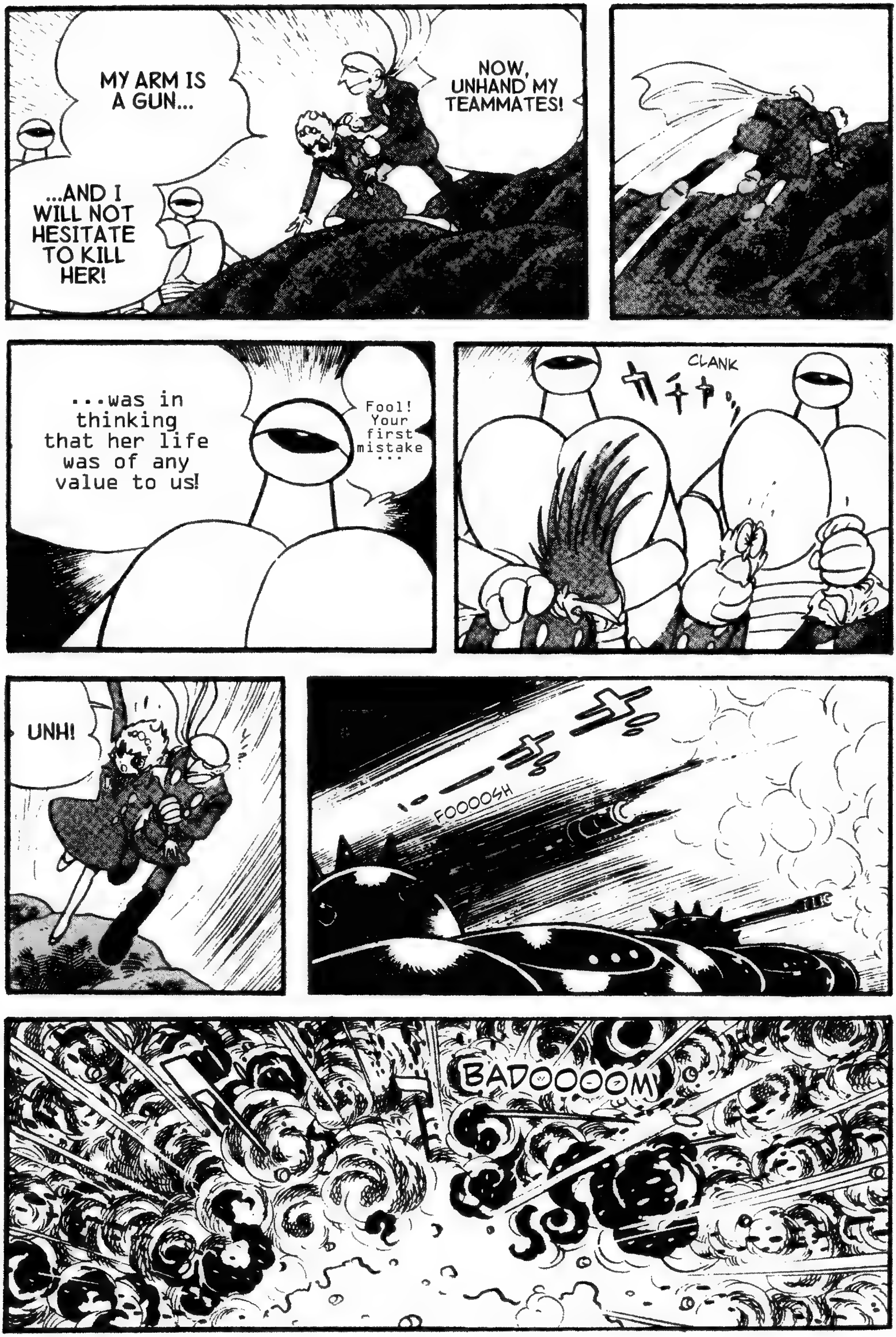

ZOUNDS!
Prepare yourself for annihilation!
NOT TODAY!
You're surrounded.
You have no choice.
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
WEEEEEN
WEEEEEN
DAMN!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY WIN!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS NOW!
VENUS!

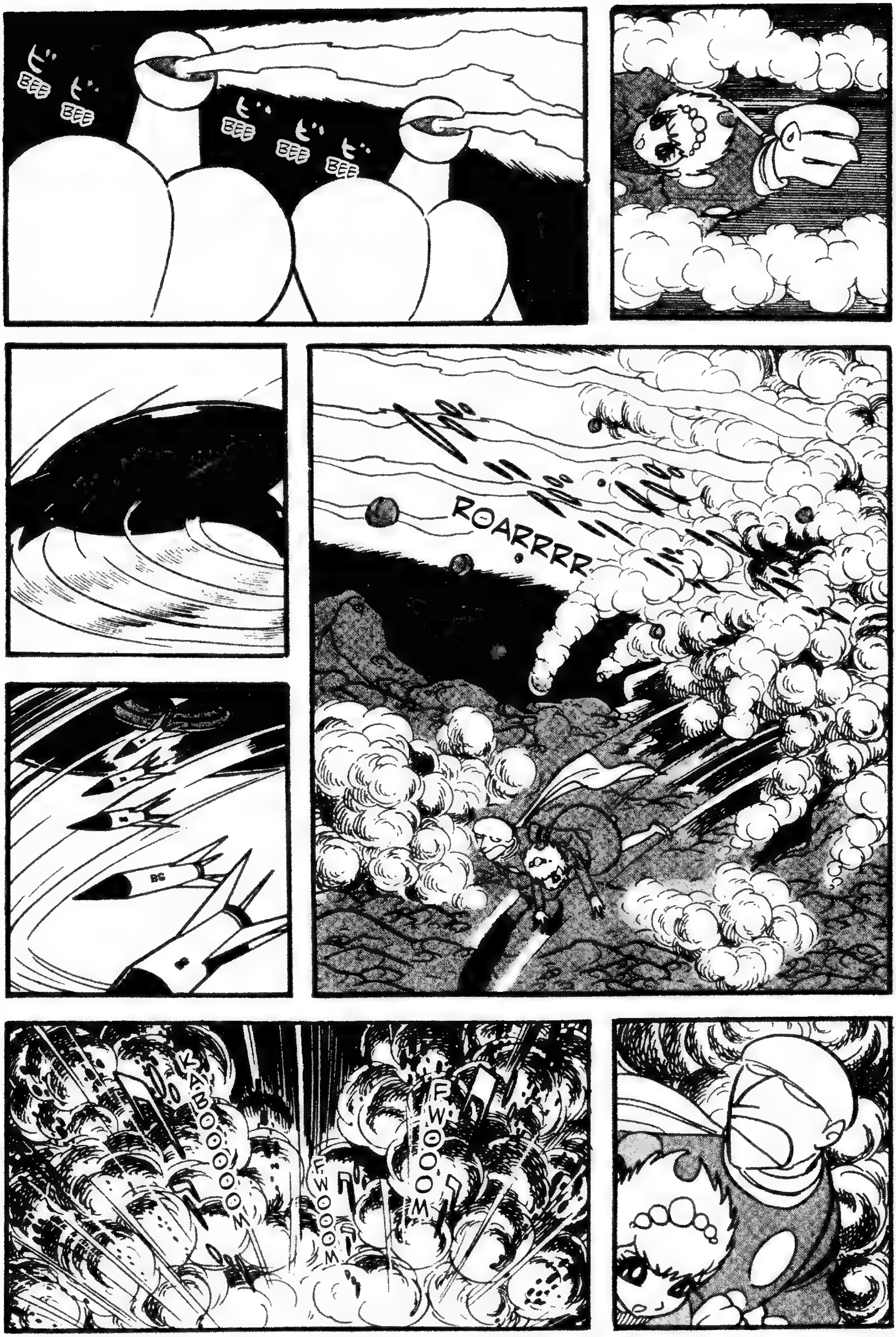

IT'S NO GREAT SECRET THAT MY LOYALTY LIES WITH BLACK GHOST!
MAYBE IF YOU'D BEEN LISTENING TO ME RATHER THAN TRYING TO CONVERT ME, YOU WOULD HAVE FIGURED THAT OUT!
I KNEW IT.
CLANK-CLANK-CLANK
I WAS TRANSMITTING YOUR POSITION THE ENTIRE TIME.
D-DAMN.
CLANK-CLANK-CLANK

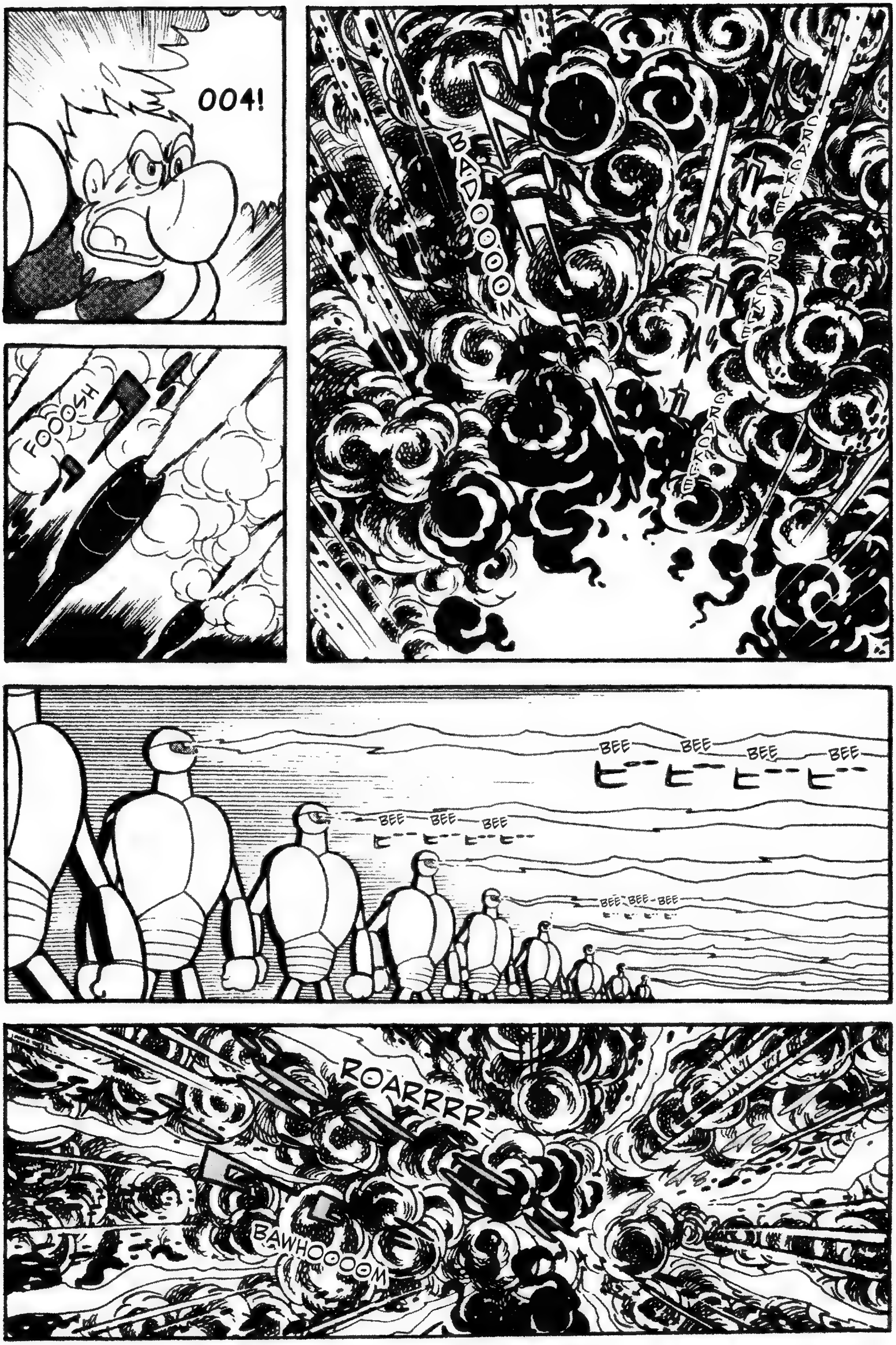

SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
WEEEEEN
WEEEN
WEEEEN
WOW! THEY'VE GOT US THIS TIME, BOYS.
WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. LAND, AIR AND SEA.
GOOD-BYE, CRUEL WORLD!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
I SAID NOW!

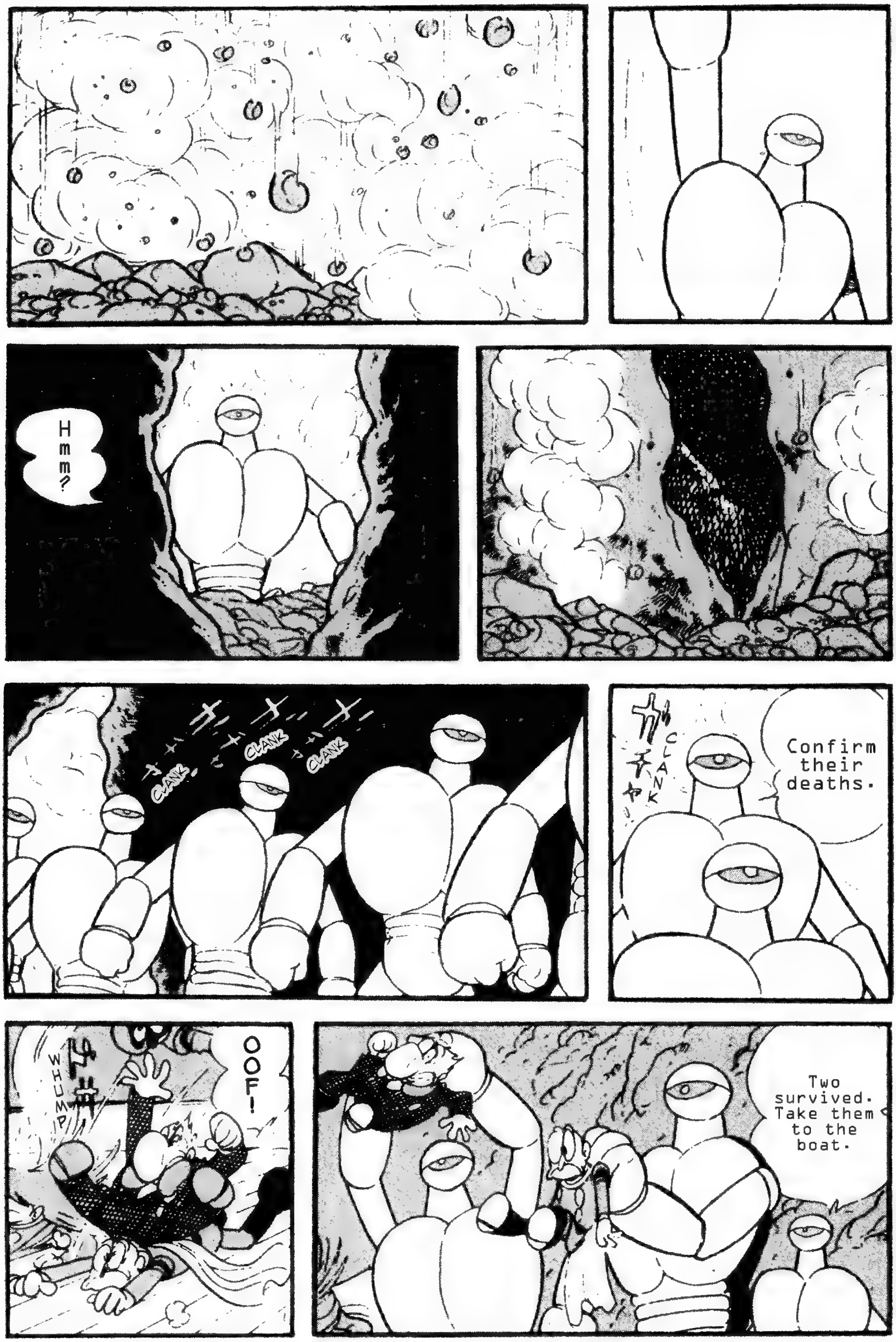

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE...
...PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!
......
CLATTER
CLATTER
Cyborgs...
Surrender now.
......
Wise decision.
Excellent. You'll accompany us to the Generalissimo.
He will decide your fate.
He will not be merciful.
But if you try to run...
...we will be less merciful.

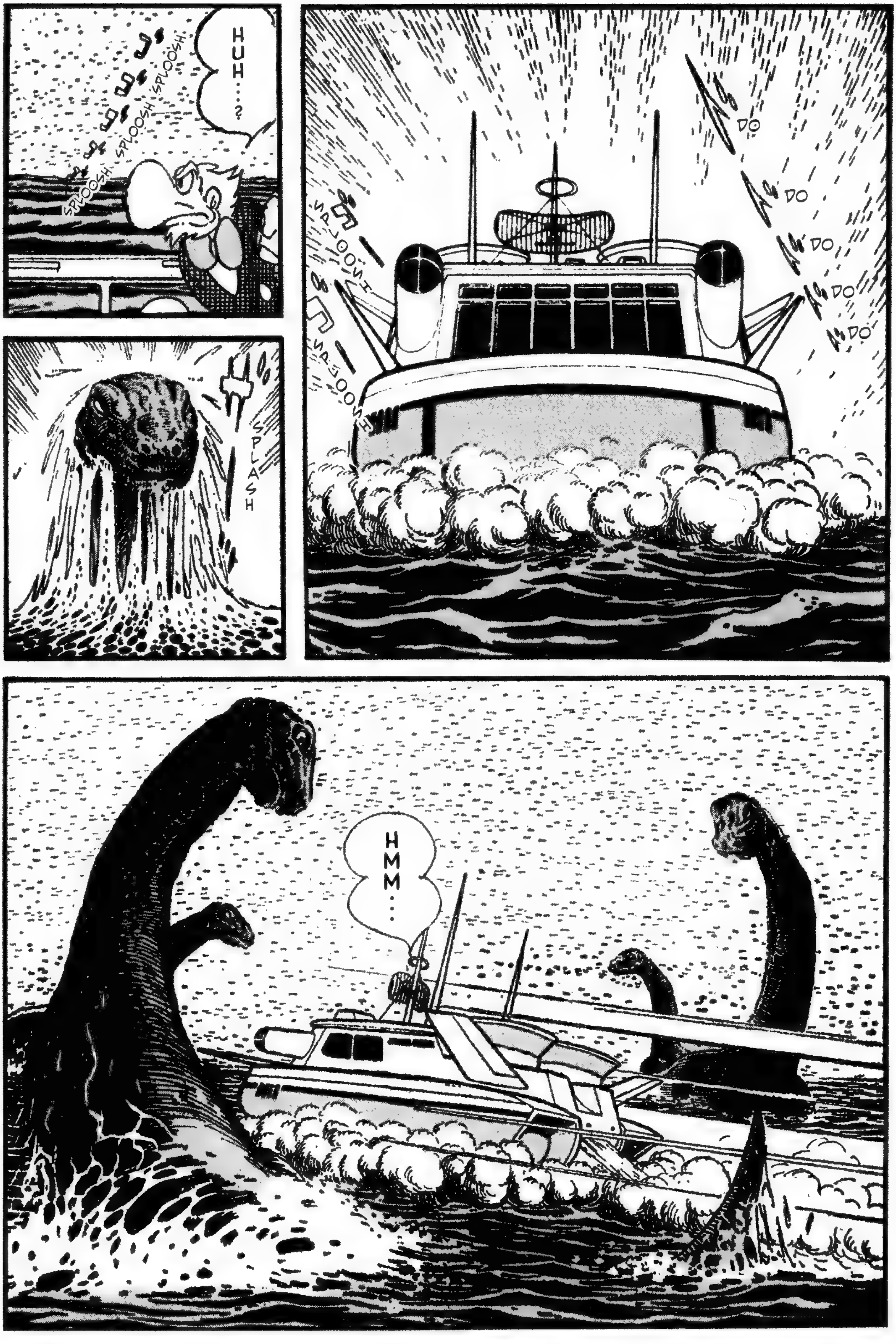

FSSSSS
DO DO DO DO DO
DO DO DO DO DO
Here comes your transport.
DASH
HEH!
GRAB

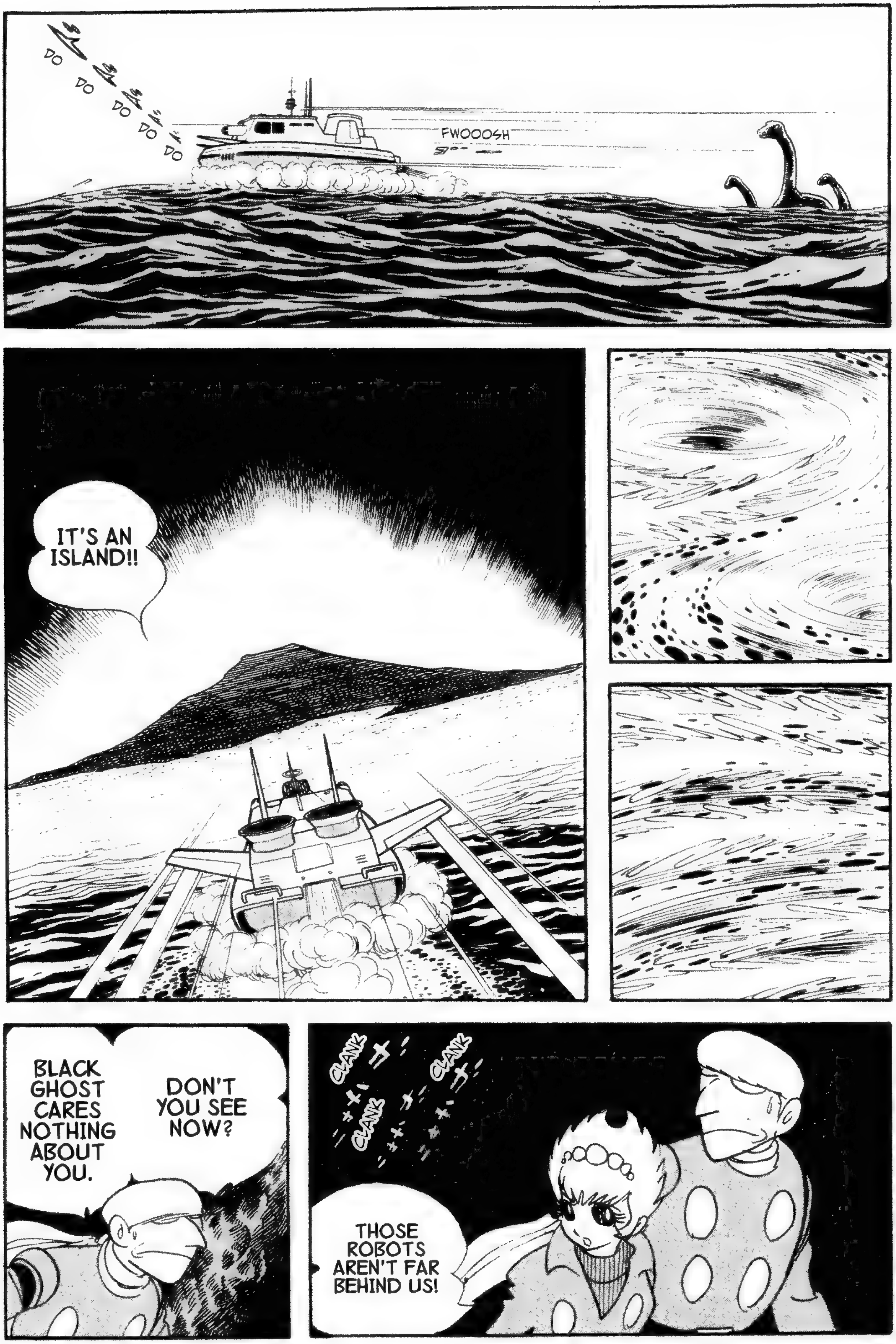

MY ARM IS A GUN...
...AND I WILL NOT HESITATE TO KILL HER!
NOW, UNHAND MY TEAMMATES!
Fool! Your first mistake...
...was in thinking that her life was of any value to us!
CLANK
UNH!
FOOOOSH
BADOOOOM

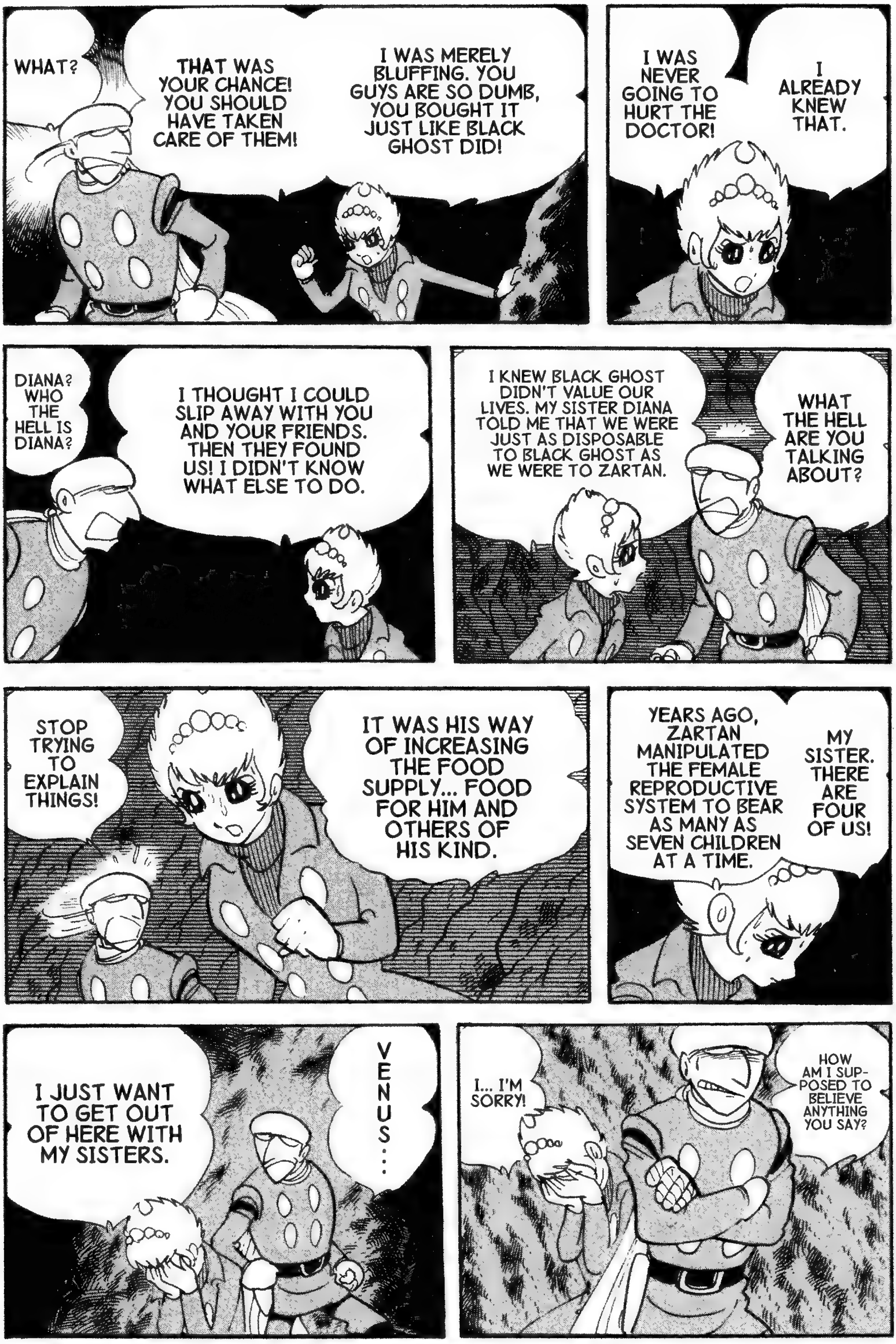

ビ BEE
ビ BEE
ビ BEE
ビ BEE
ビ BEE
ROARRRR
BC
KABOOOOOM
FWOOOM
FWOOOM

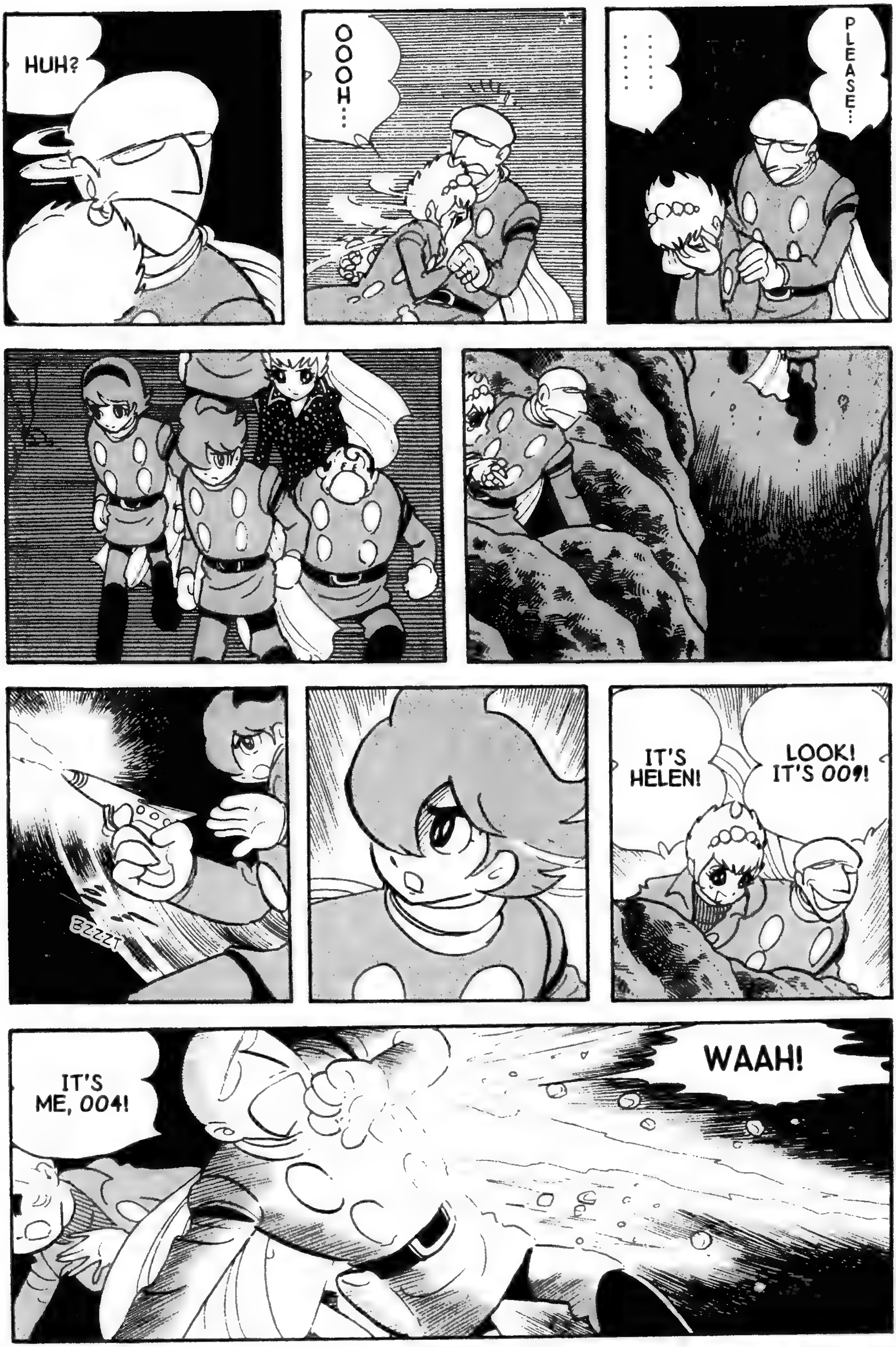

004!
FOOOSH
BADOOOOOM
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
BEE BEE BEE BEE
ビー ビー ビー ビー
BEE BEE BEE
BEE BEE BEE
ROARRRR
BAWHOOOOM

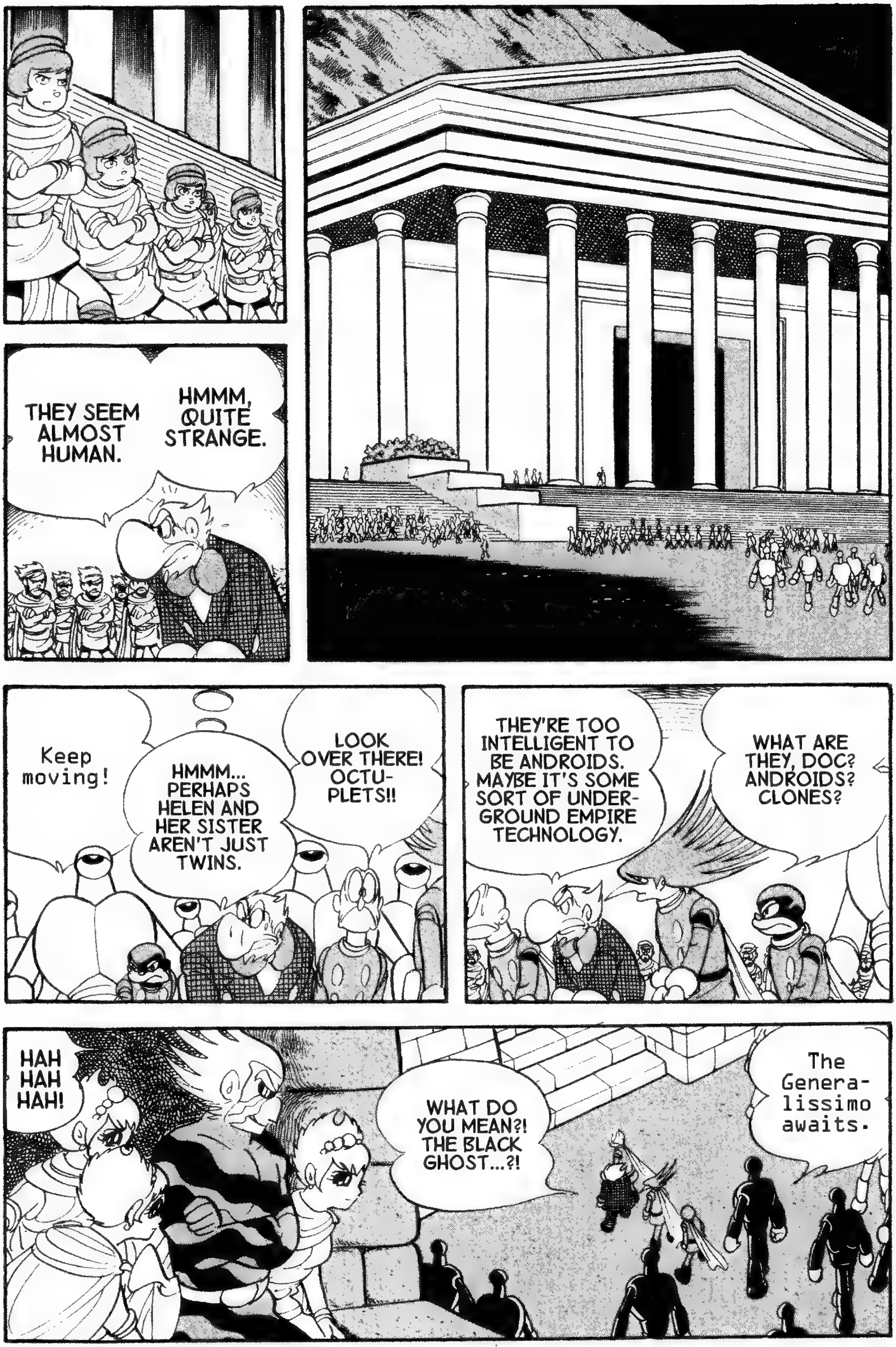

Hmm?
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
Confirm their deaths.
WHUMP
OOF!
Two survived. Take them to the boat.

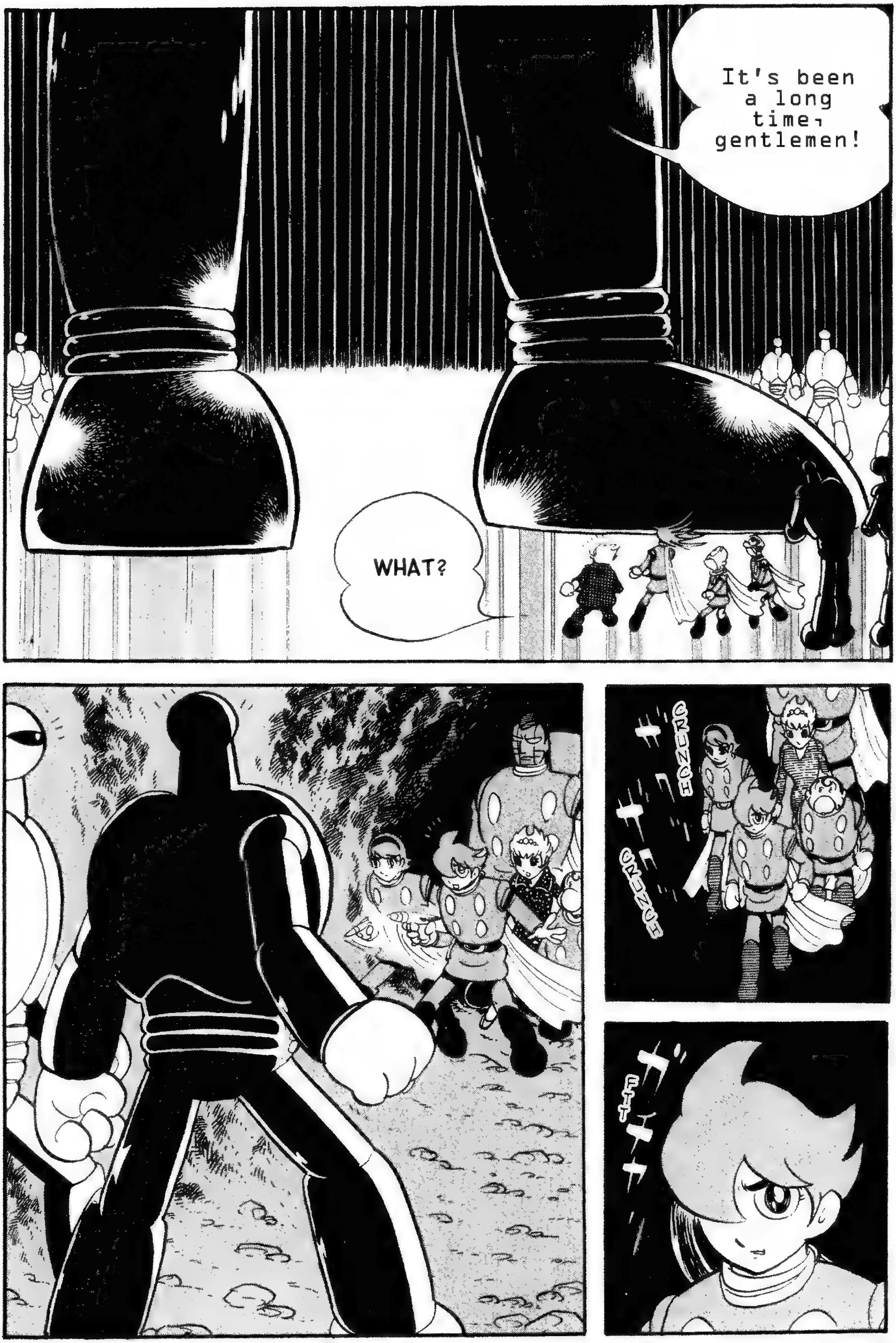

SPLOOSH SPLOOSH SPLOOSH
HUH...?
SPLASH
VAJOOOM
VAJOOOM
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
HMM...

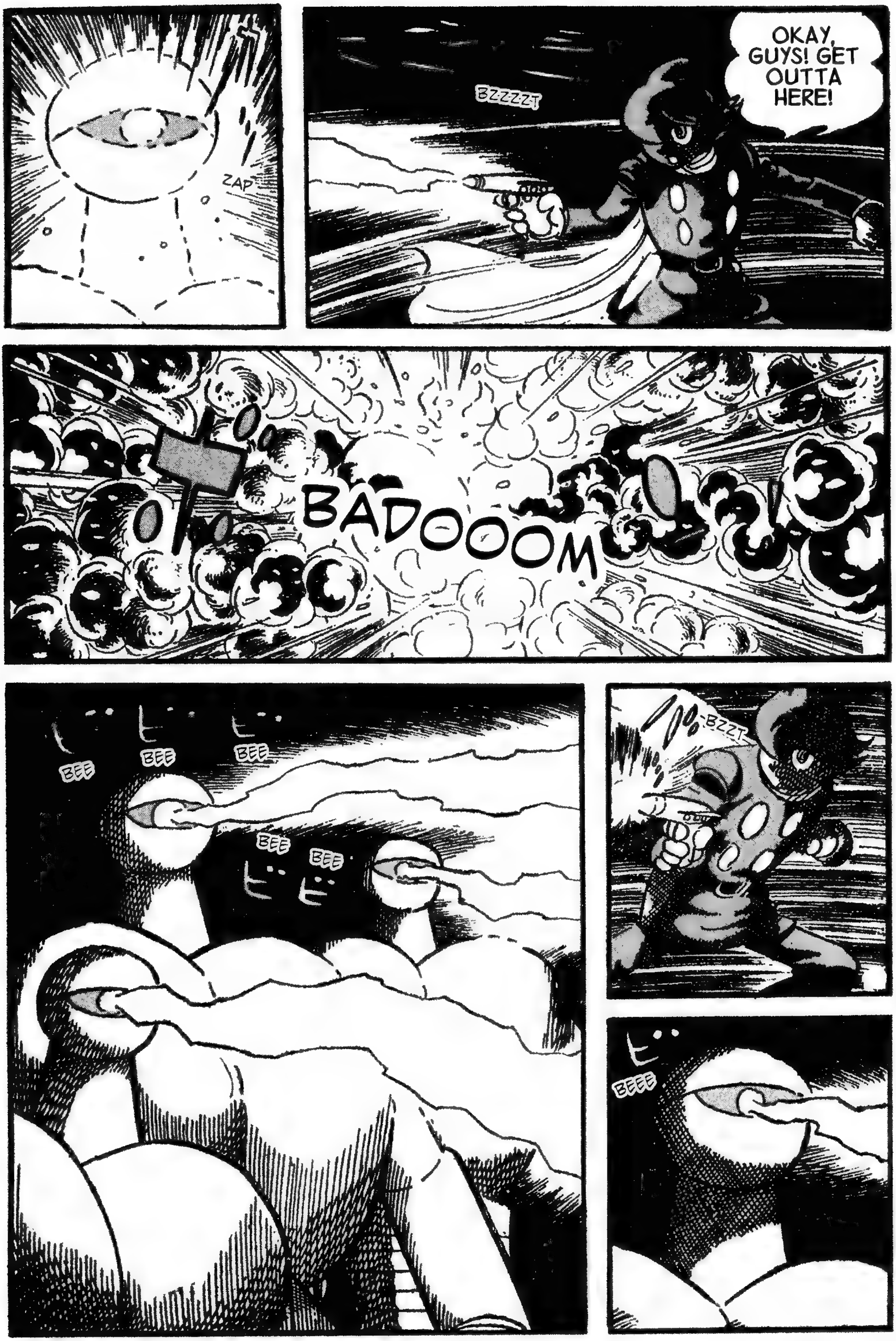

DO DO DO DO DO
FWOOOSH
IT'S AN ISLAND!!
BLACK GHOST CARES NOTHING ABOUT YOU.
DON'T YOU SEE NOW?
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
THOSE ROBOTS AREN'T FAR BEHIND US!

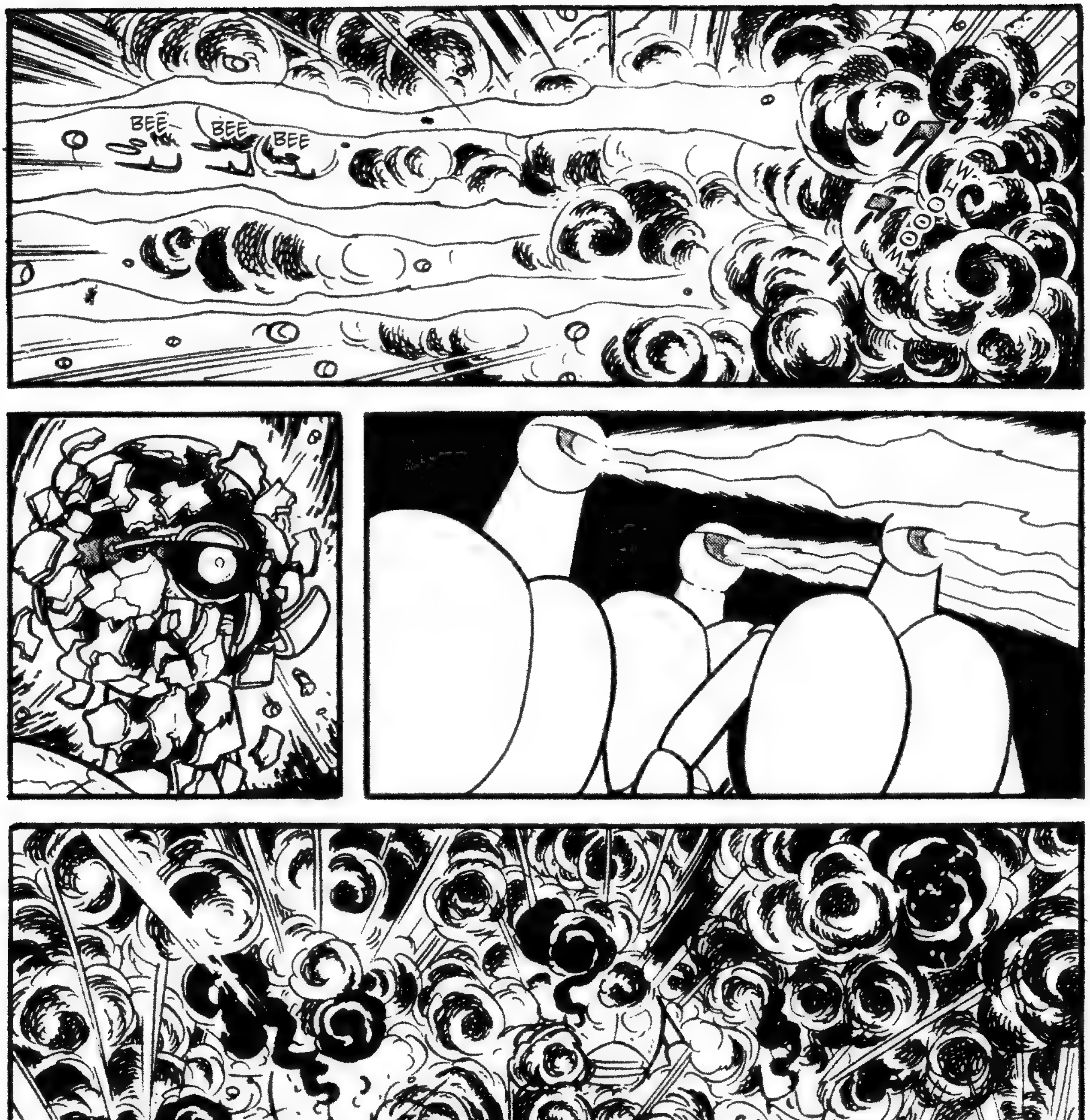

WHAT?
THAT WAS YOUR CHANCE! YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THEM!
I WAS MERELY BLUFFING. YOU GUYS ARE SO DUMB, YOU BOUGHT IT JUST LIKE BLACK GHOST DID!
I WAS NEVER GOING TO HURT THE DOCTOR!
I ALREADY KNEW THAT.
DIANA? WHO THE HELL IS DIANA?
I THOUGHT I COULD SLIP AWAY WITH YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. THEN THEY FOUND US! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
I KNEW BLACK GHOST DIDN'T VALUE OUR LIVES. MY SISTER DIANA TOLD ME THAT WE WERE JUST AS DISPOSABLE TO BLACK GHOST AS WE WERE TO ZARTAN.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
STOP TRYING TO EXPLAIN THINGS!
IT WAS HIS WAY OF INCREASING THE FOOD SUPPLY... FOOD FOR HIM AND OTHERS OF HIS KIND.
YEARS AGO, ZARTAN MANIPULATED THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM TO BEAR AS MANY AS SEVEN CHILDREN AT A TIME.
MY SISTER. THERE ARE FOUR OF US!
I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE WITH MY SISTERS.
VENUS...
I... I'M SORRY!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY?

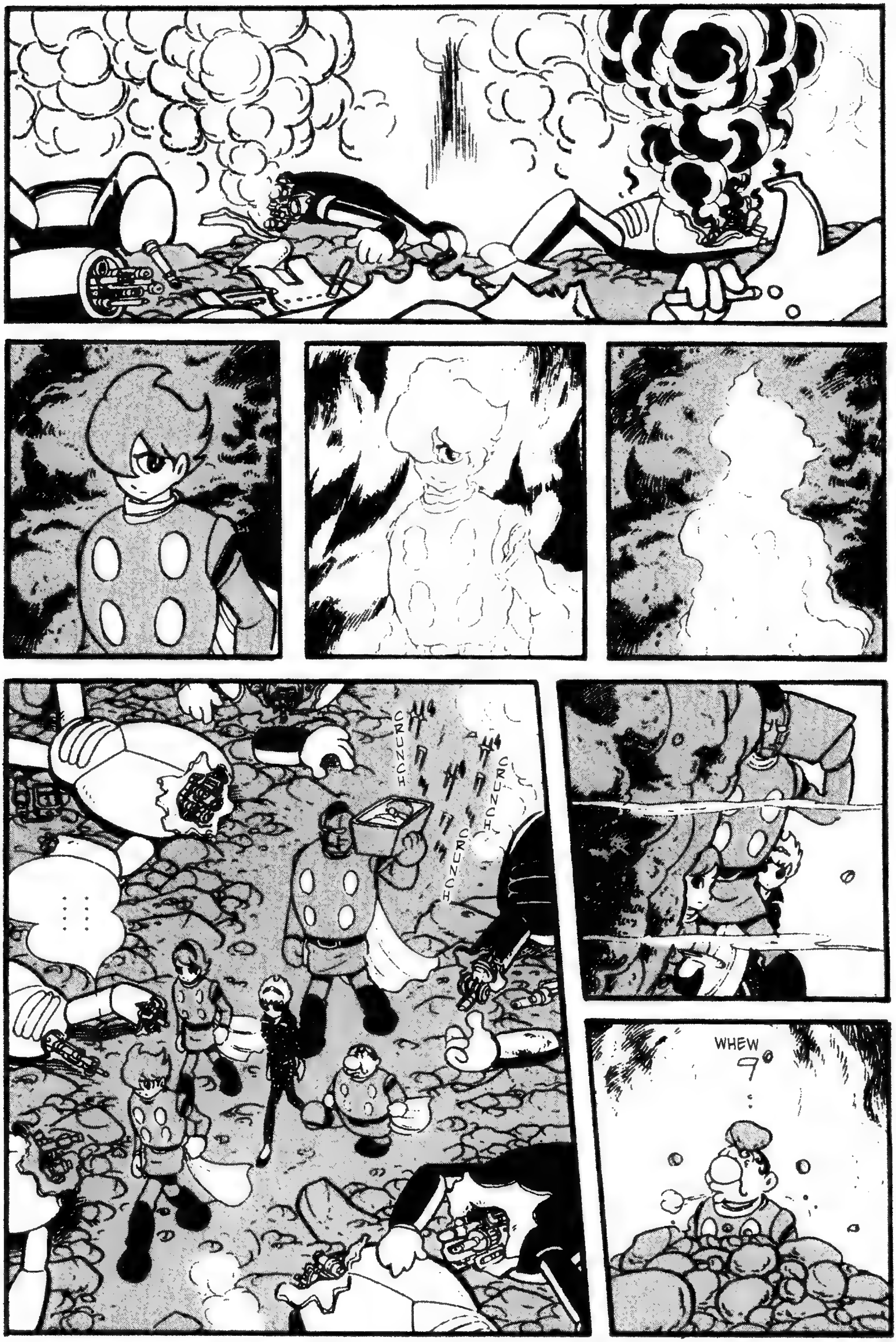

HUH?
OOOH...
......
......
PLEASE...
BZZZT
IT'S HELEN!
LOOK! IT'S 009!
IT'S ME, 004!
WAAH!

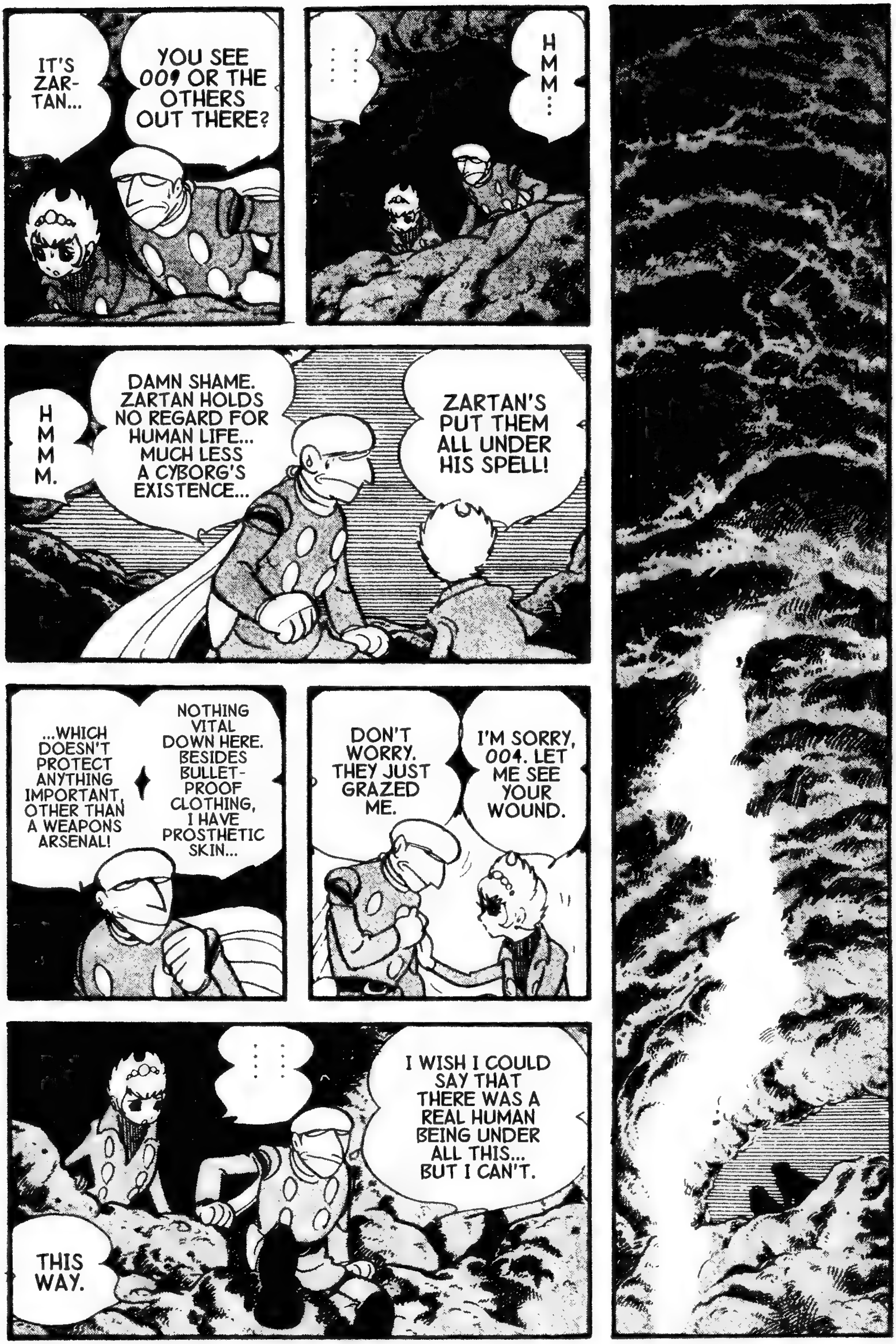

HMMM, QUITE STRANGE.
THEY SEEM ALMOST HUMAN.
WHAT ARE THEY, DOC? ANDROIDS? CLONES?
THEY'RE TOO INTELLIGENT TO BE ANDROIDS. MAYBE IT'S SOME SORT OF UNDERGROUND EMPIRE TECHNOLOGY.
LOOK OVER THERE! OCTUPLETS!!
HMMM... PERHAPS HELEN AND HER SISTER AREN'T JUST TWINS.
Keep moving!
The Generalissimo awaits.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! THE BLACK GHOST...?!
HAH HAH HAH!

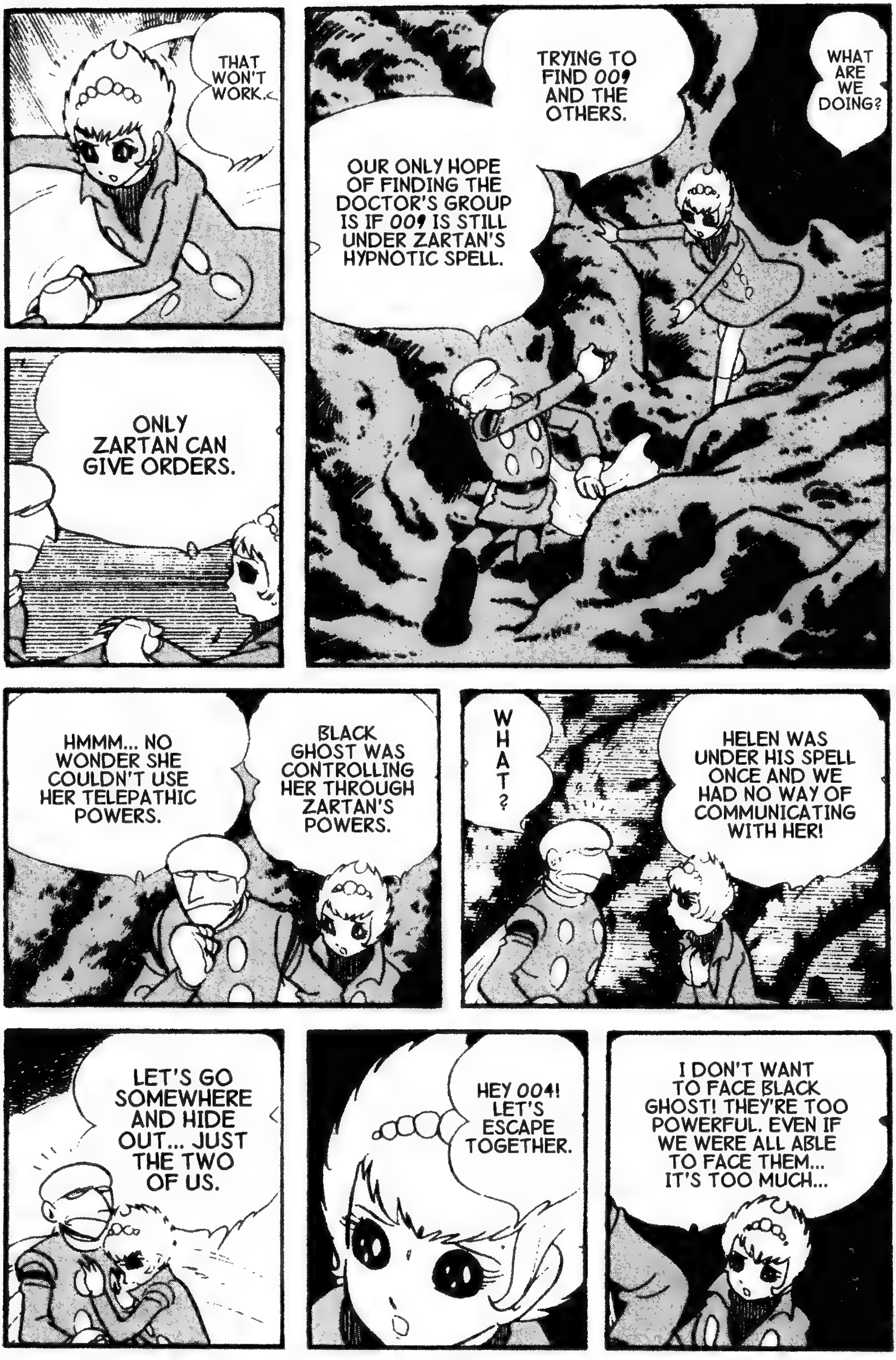

It's been a long time, gentlemen!
WHAT?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
FIT

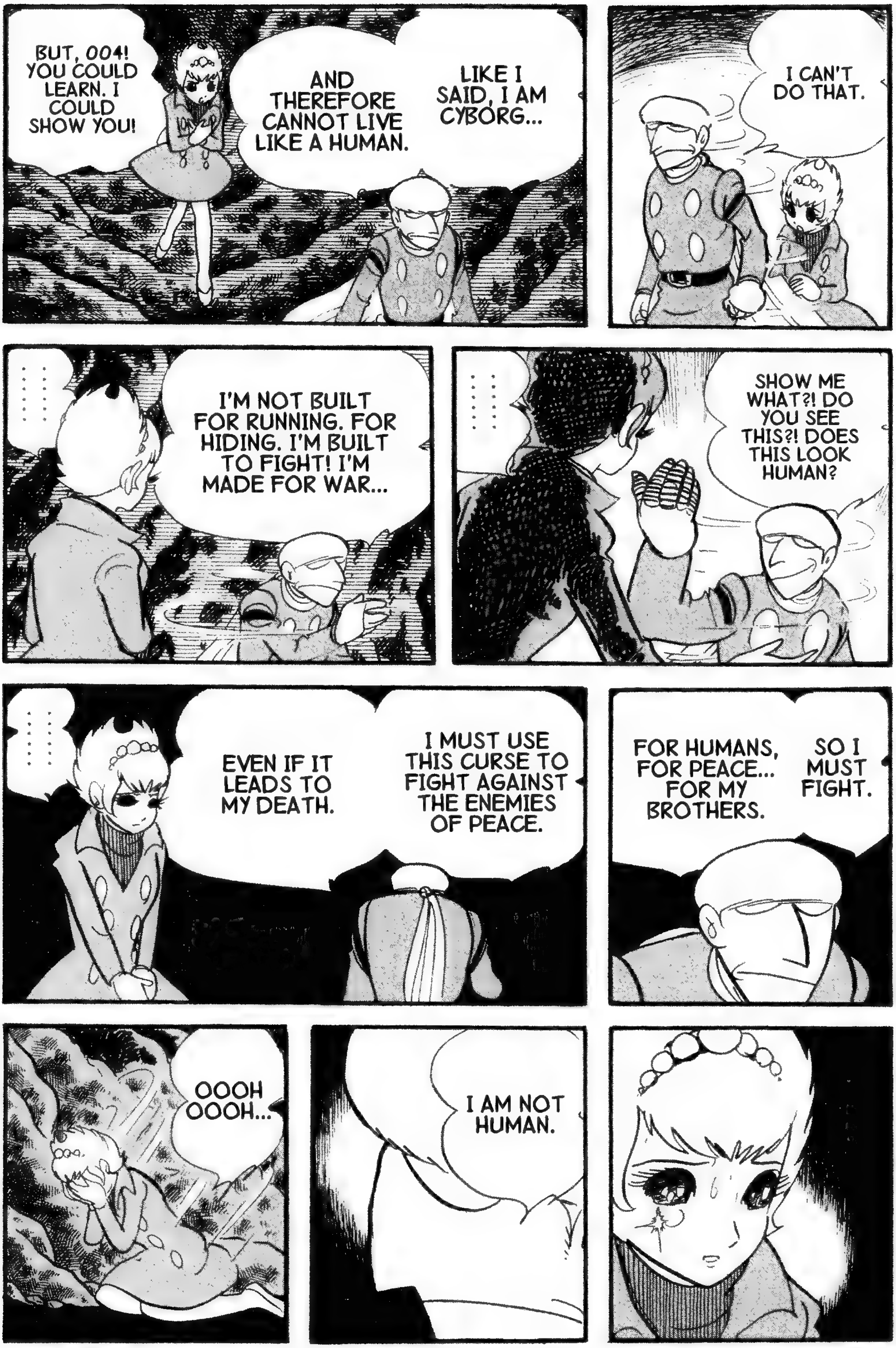

ZAP
BZZZZT
OKAY, GUYS! GET OUTTA HERE!
BADOOOM
BEE BEE BEE
BEE BEE
BZZT
BEEE

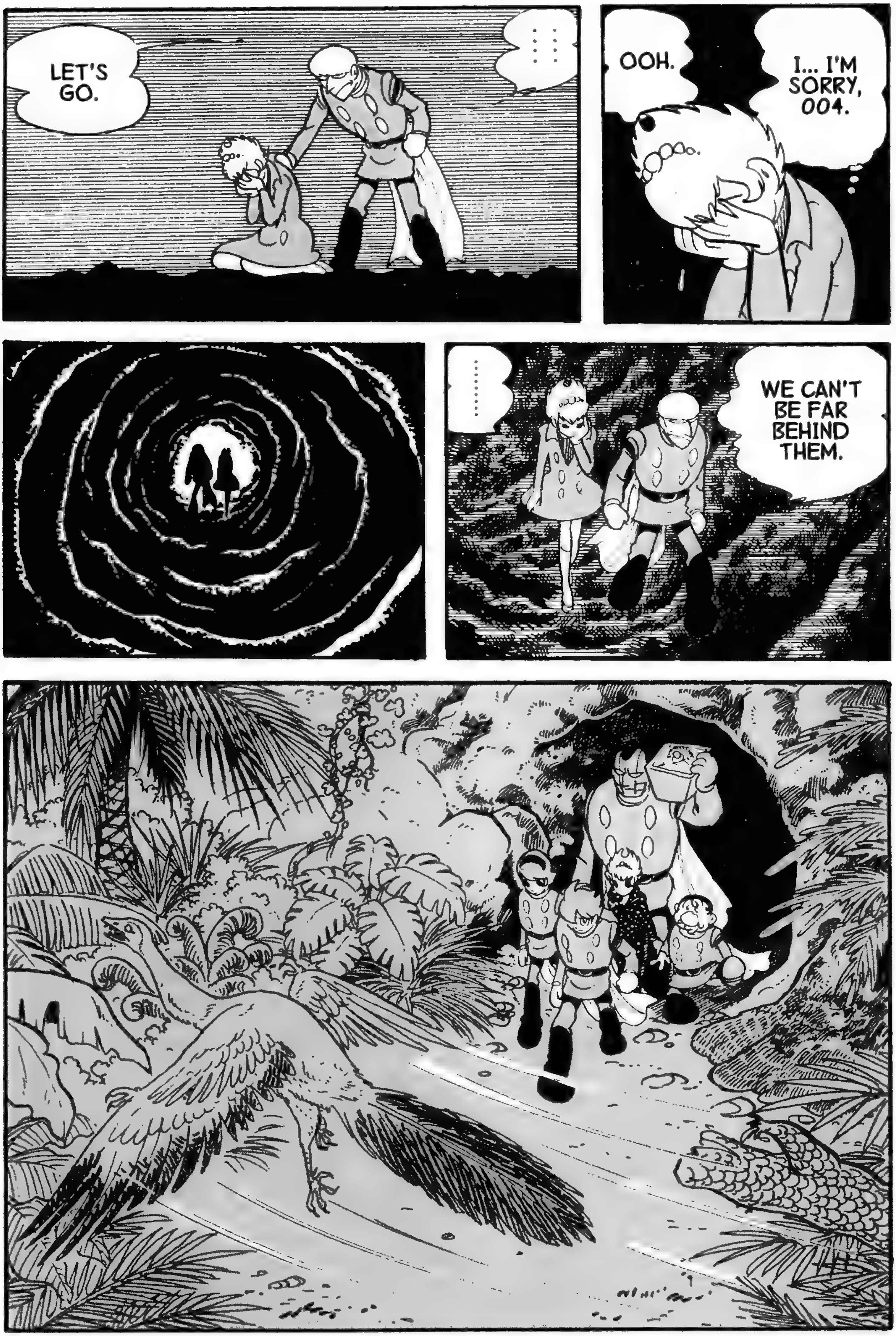

BEE
BEE
BEE
WHOOOM

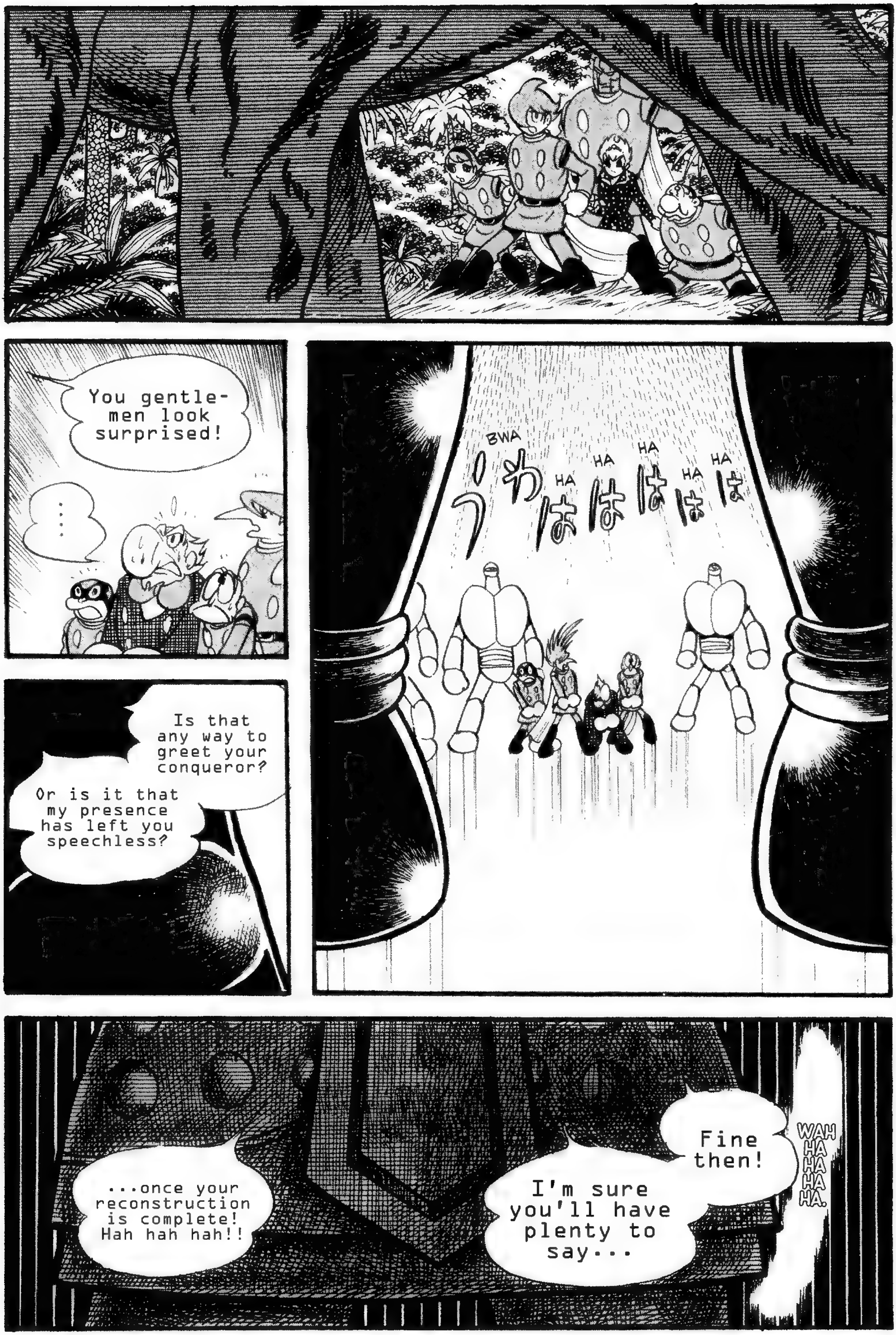

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
WHEW

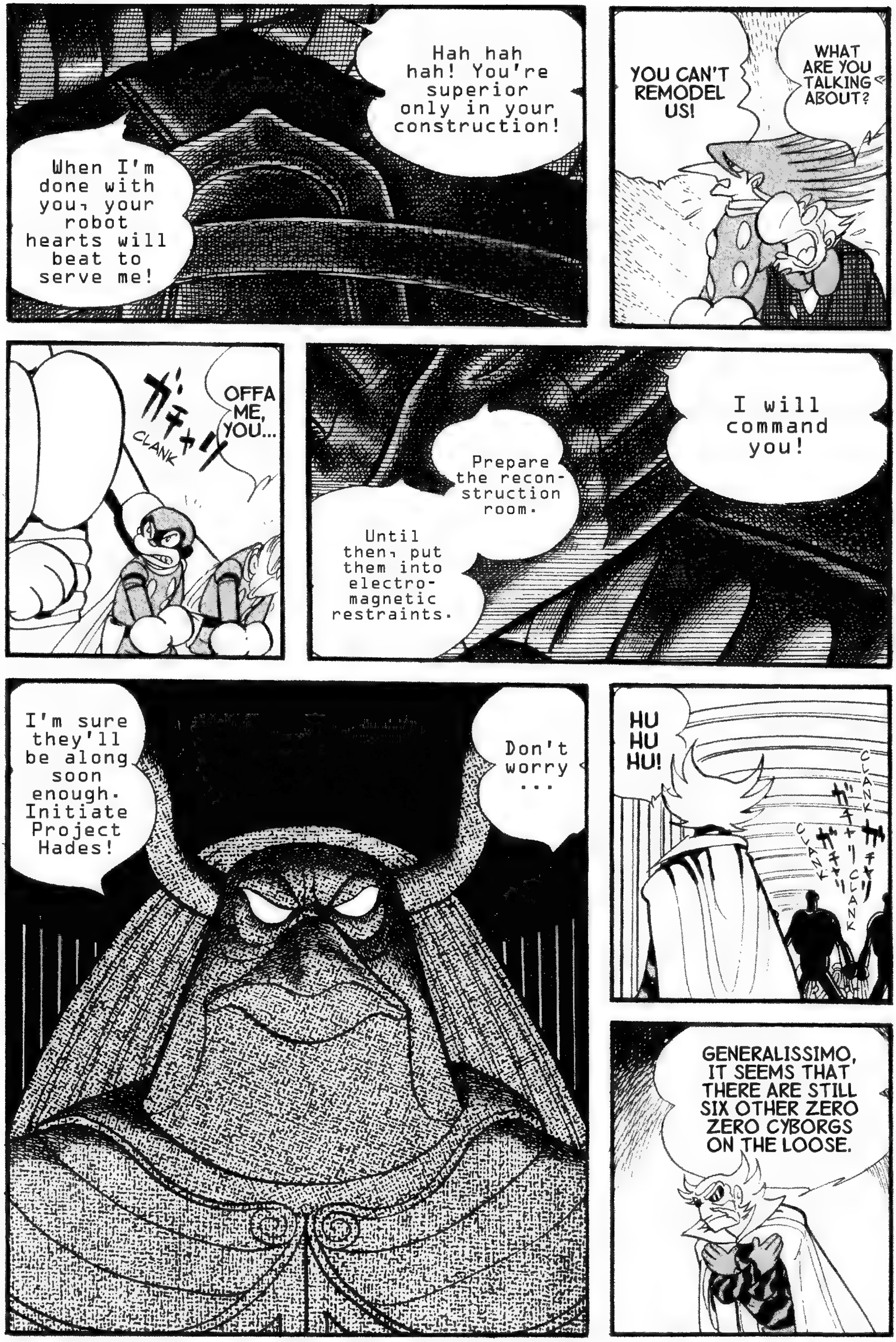

HMM...
......
YOU SEE 009 OR THE OTHERS OUT THERE?
IT'S ZARTAN...
ZARTAN'S PUT THEM ALL UNDER HIS SPELL!
DAMN SHAME. ZARTAN HOLDS NO REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE... MUCH LESS A CYBORG'S EXISTENCE...
HMMM.
I'M SORRY, 004. LET ME SEE YOUR WOUND.
DON'T WORRY. THEY JUST GRAZED ME.
NOTHING VITAL DOWN HERE. BESIDES BULLETPROOF CLOTHING, I HAVE PROSTHETIC SKIN...
...WHICH DOESN'T PROTECT ANYTHING IMPORTANT, OTHER THAN A WEAPONS ARSENAL!
I WISH I COULD SAY THAT THERE WAS A REAL HUMAN BEING UNDER ALL THIS... BUT I CAN'T.
......
THIS WAY.

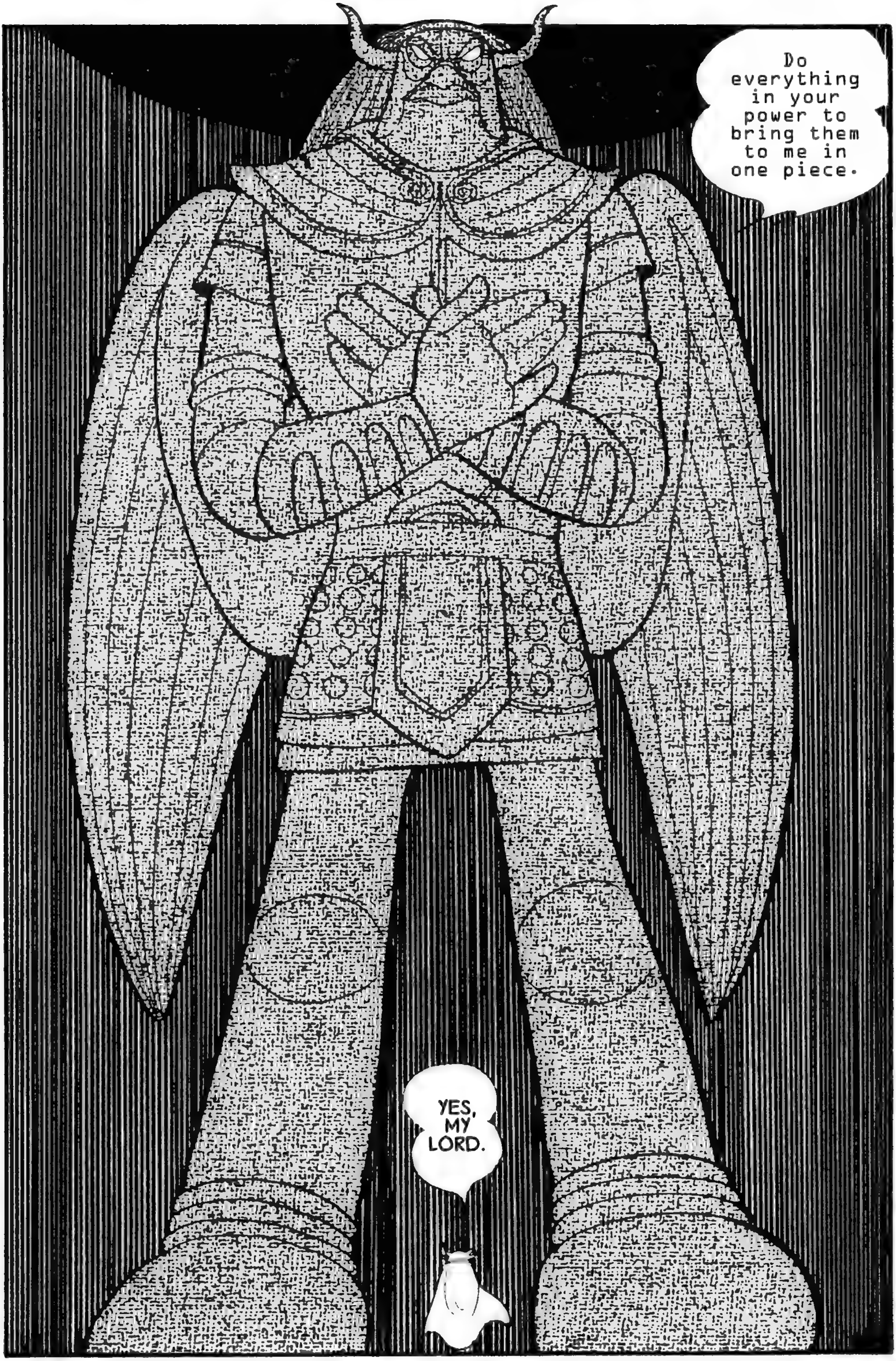

WHAT ARE WE DOING?
TRYING TO FIND 009 AND THE OTHERS.
OUR ONLY HOPE OF FINDING THE DOCTOR'S GROUP IS IF 009 IS STILL UNDER ZARTAN'S HYPNOTIC SPELL.
THAT WON'T WORK.
ONLY ZARTAN CAN GIVE ORDERS.
WHAT?
HELEN WAS UNDER HIS SPELL ONCE AND WE HAD NO WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH HER!
BLACK GHOST WAS CONTROLLING HER THROUGH ZARTAN'S POWERS.
HMMM... NO WONDER SHE COULDN'T USE HER TELEPATHIC POWERS.
I DON'T WANT TO FACE BLACK GHOST! THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL. EVEN IF WE WERE ALL ABLE TO FACE THEM... IT'S TOO MUCH...
HEY 004! LET'S ESCAPE TOGETHER.
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE AND HIDE OUT... JUST THE TWO OF US.

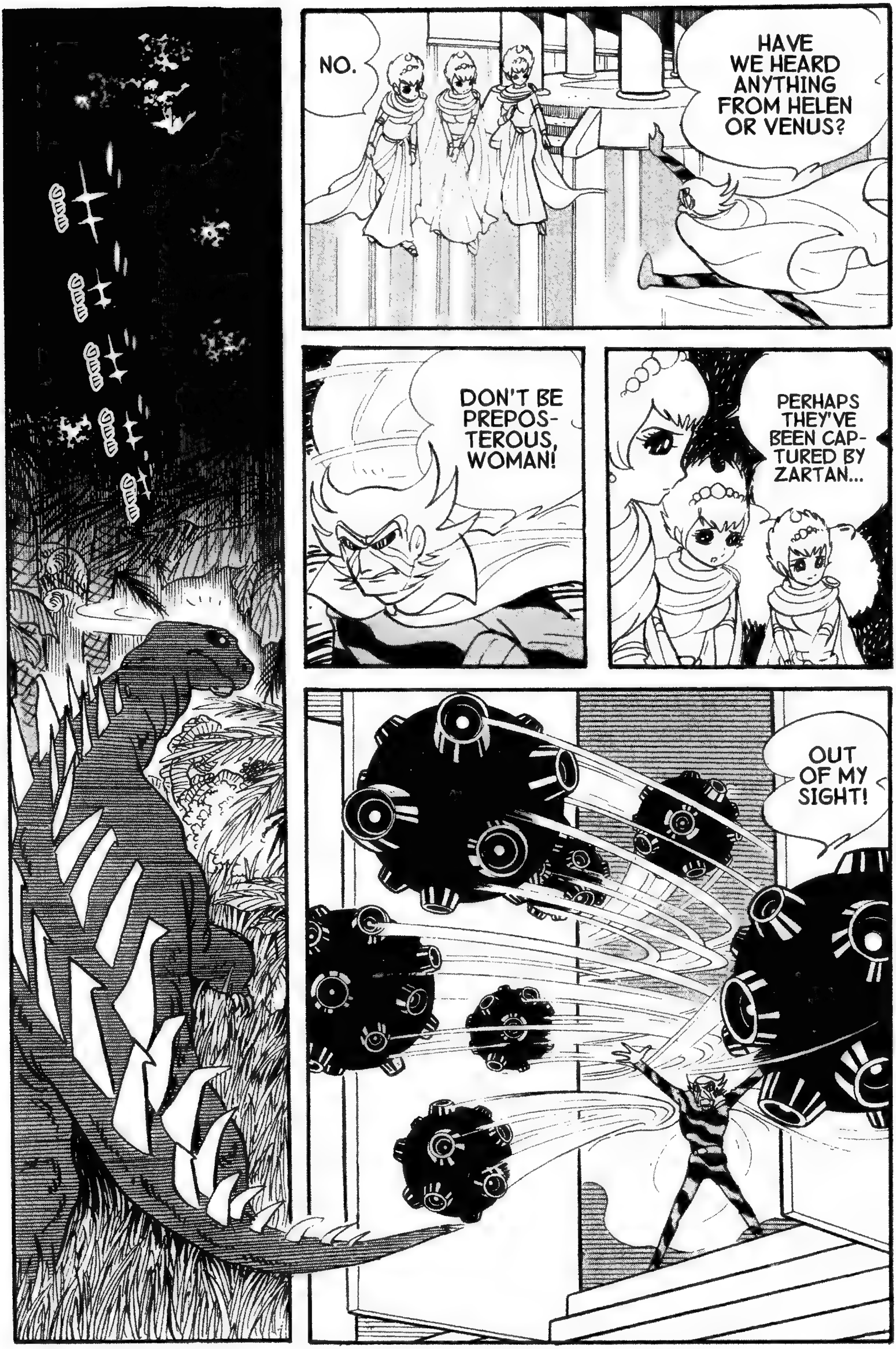

I CAN'T DO THAT.
LIKE I SAID, I AM CYBORG...
AND THEREFORE CANNOT LIVE LIKE A HUMAN.
BUT, 004! YOU COULD LEARN. I COULD SHOW YOU!
SHOW ME WHAT?! DO YOU SEE THIS?! DOES THIS LOOK HUMAN?
……
I'M NOT BUILT FOR RUNNING. FOR HIDING. I'M BUILT TO FIGHT! I'M MADE FOR WAR...
……
SO I MUST FIGHT.
FOR HUMANS, FOR PEACE... FOR MY BROTHERS.
I MUST USE THIS CURSE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF PEACE.
EVEN IF IT LEADS TO MY DEATH.
……
I AM NOT HUMAN.
OOOH OOOH...

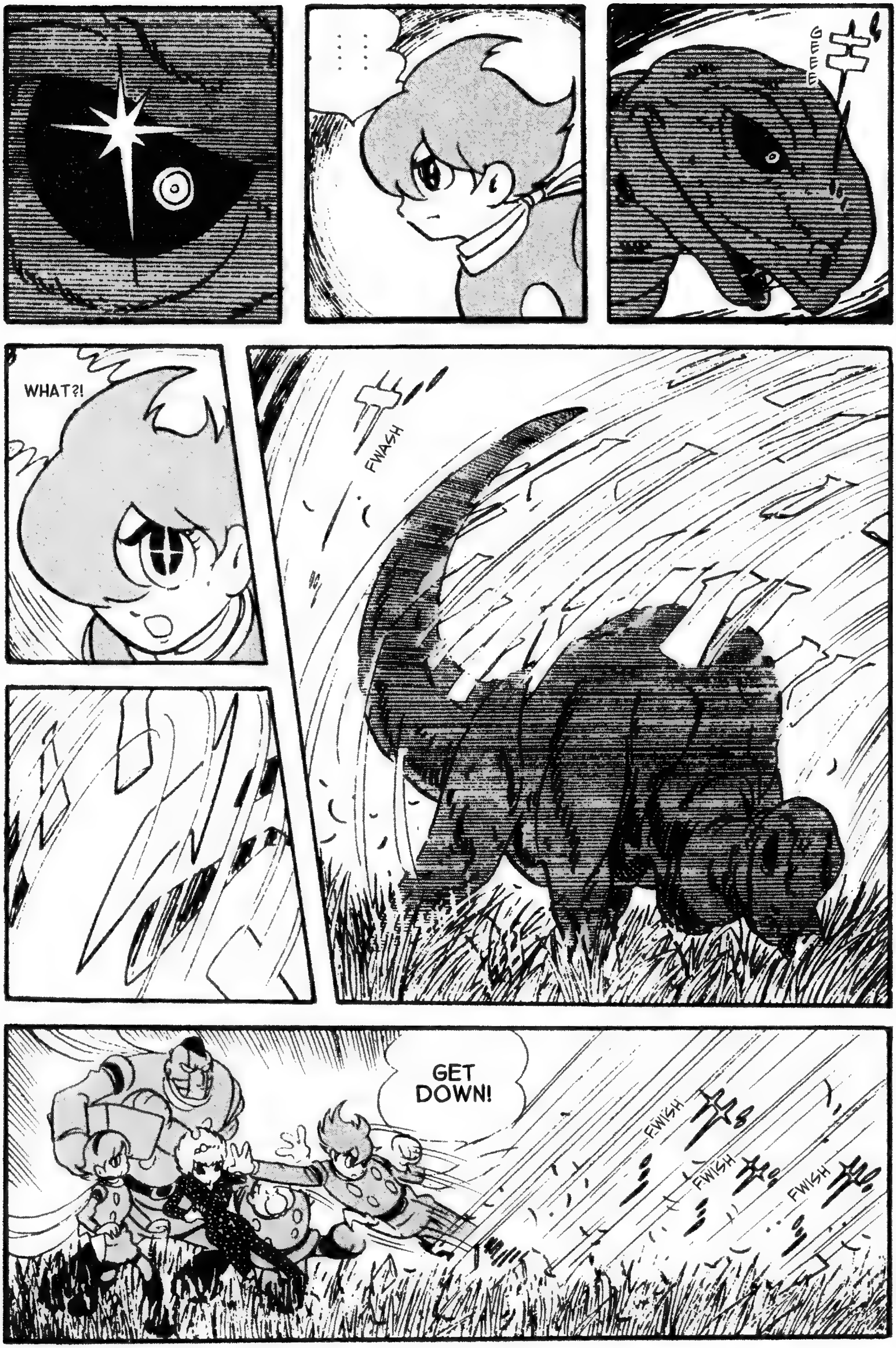

LET'S GO.
....
OOH.
I... I'M SORRY, 004.
....
WE CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND THEM.

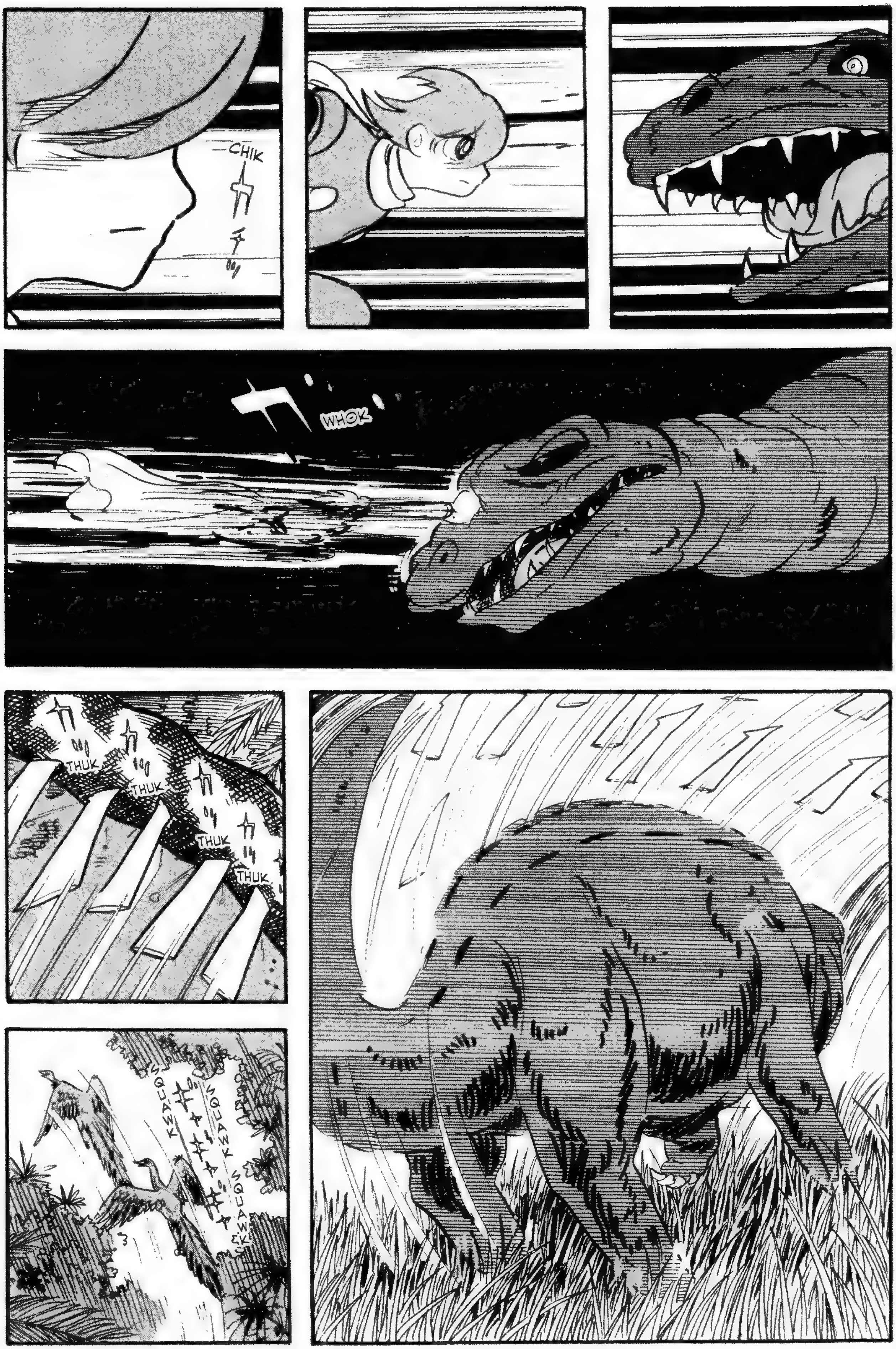

BWA HA HA HA HA HA
うわははははは
You gentlemen look surprised!
.....
Is that any way to greet your conqueror?
Or is it that my presence has left you speechless?
Fine then!
I'm sure you'll have plenty to say...
...once your reconstruction is complete! Hah hah hah!!
WAH HA HA HA HA.

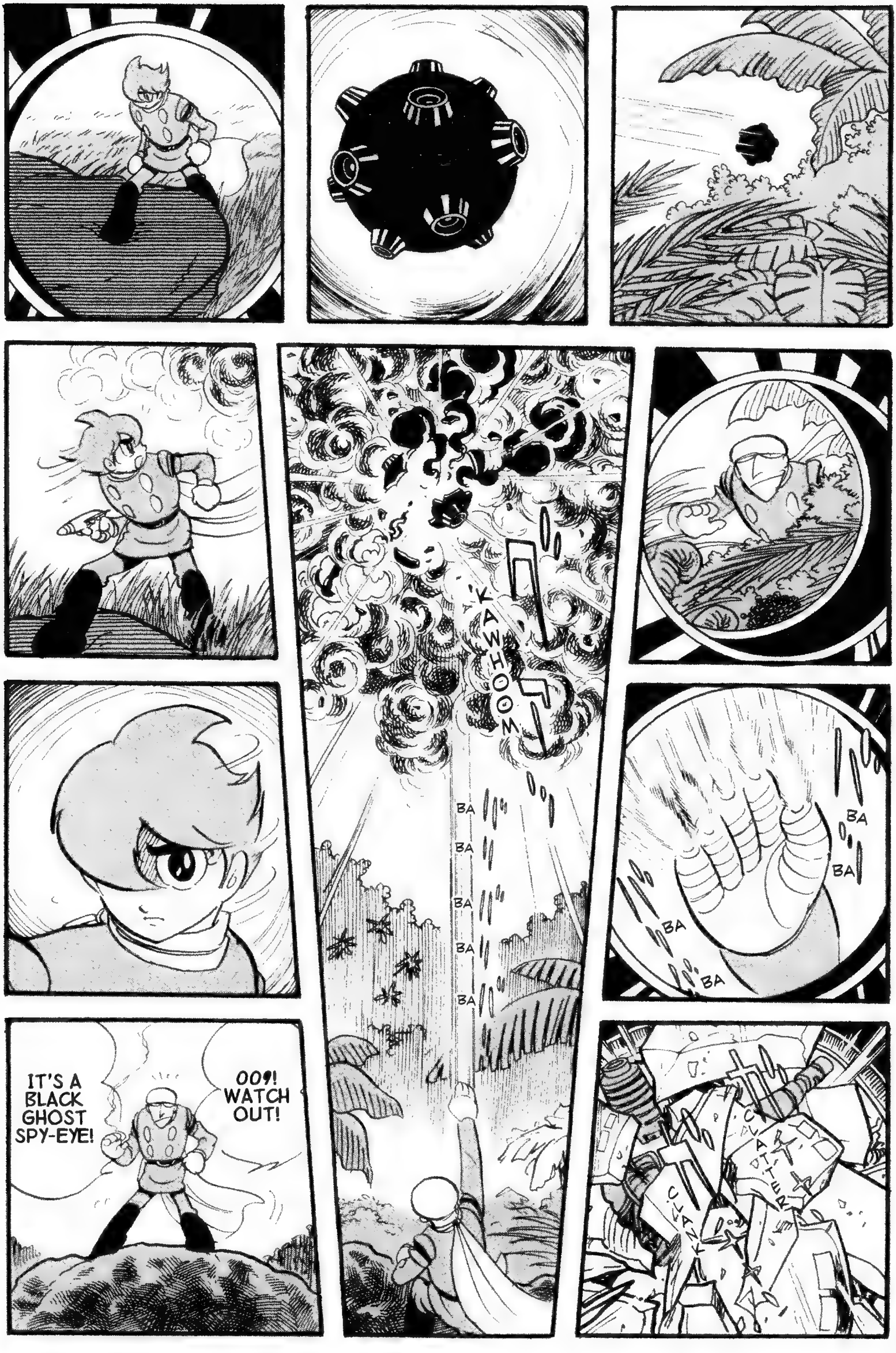

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU CAN'T REMODEL US!
Hah hah hah! You're superior only in your construction!
When I'm done with you, your robot hearts will beat to serve me!
I will command you!
Prepare the reconstruction room.
Until then, put them into electromagnetic restraints.
OFFA ME, YOU...
ガチャリ
CLANK
HU HU HU!
ガチャ
CLANK
ガチャ
CLANK
ガチャ
CLANK
GENERALISSIMO, IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE STILL SIX OTHER ZERO ZERO CYBORGS ON THE LOOSE.
Don't worry...
I'm sure they'll be along soon enough. Initiate Project Hades!

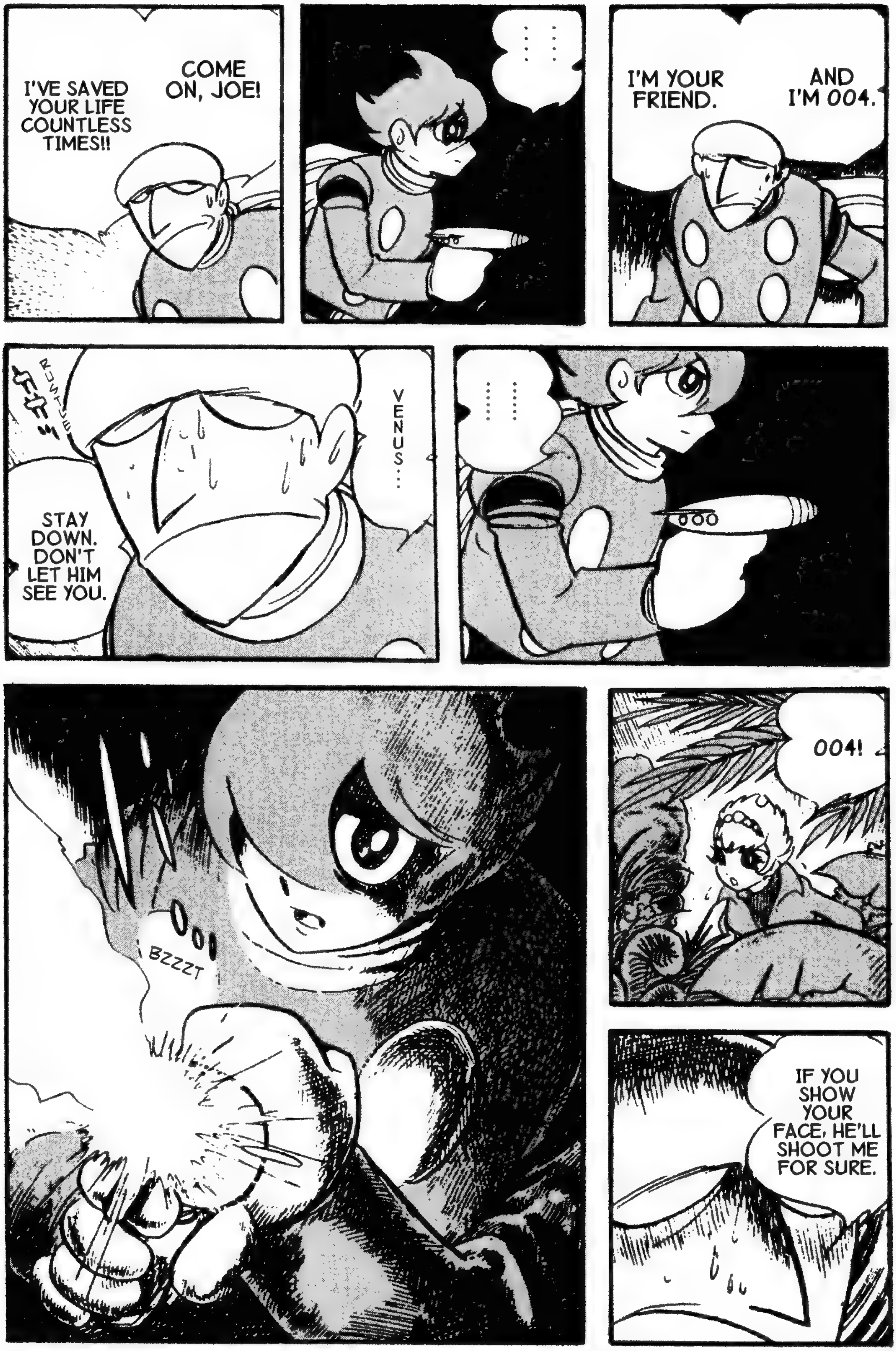

Do everything in your power to bring them to me in one piece.
YES, MY LORD.

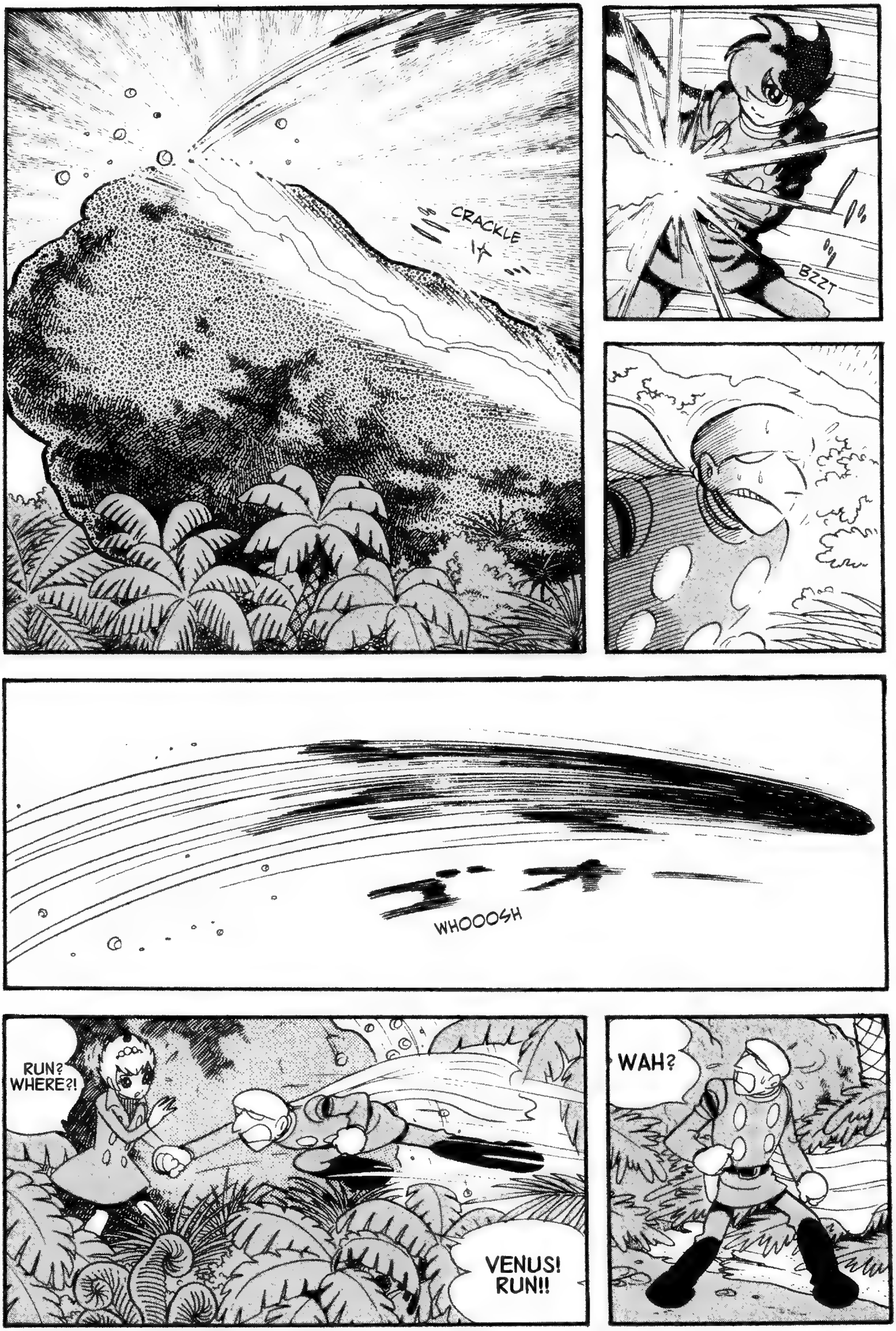

HAVE WE HEARD ANYTHING FROM HELEN OR VENUS?
NO.
PERHAPS THEY'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY ZARTAN...
DON'T BE PREPOSTEROUS, WOMAN!
OUT OF MY SIGHT!

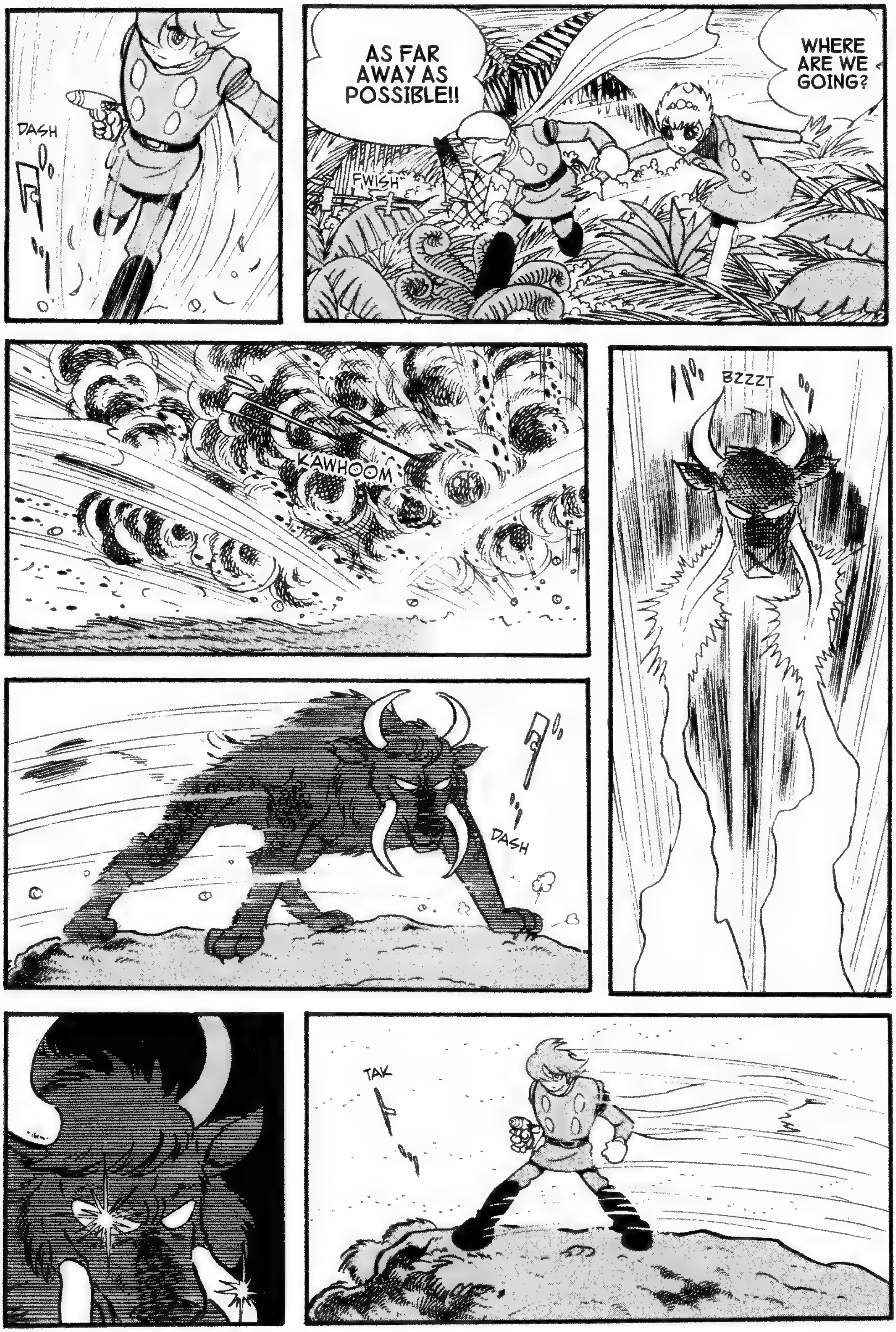

....
GEEEE
WHAT?!
FWASH
GET DOWN!
FWISH
FWISH
FWISH

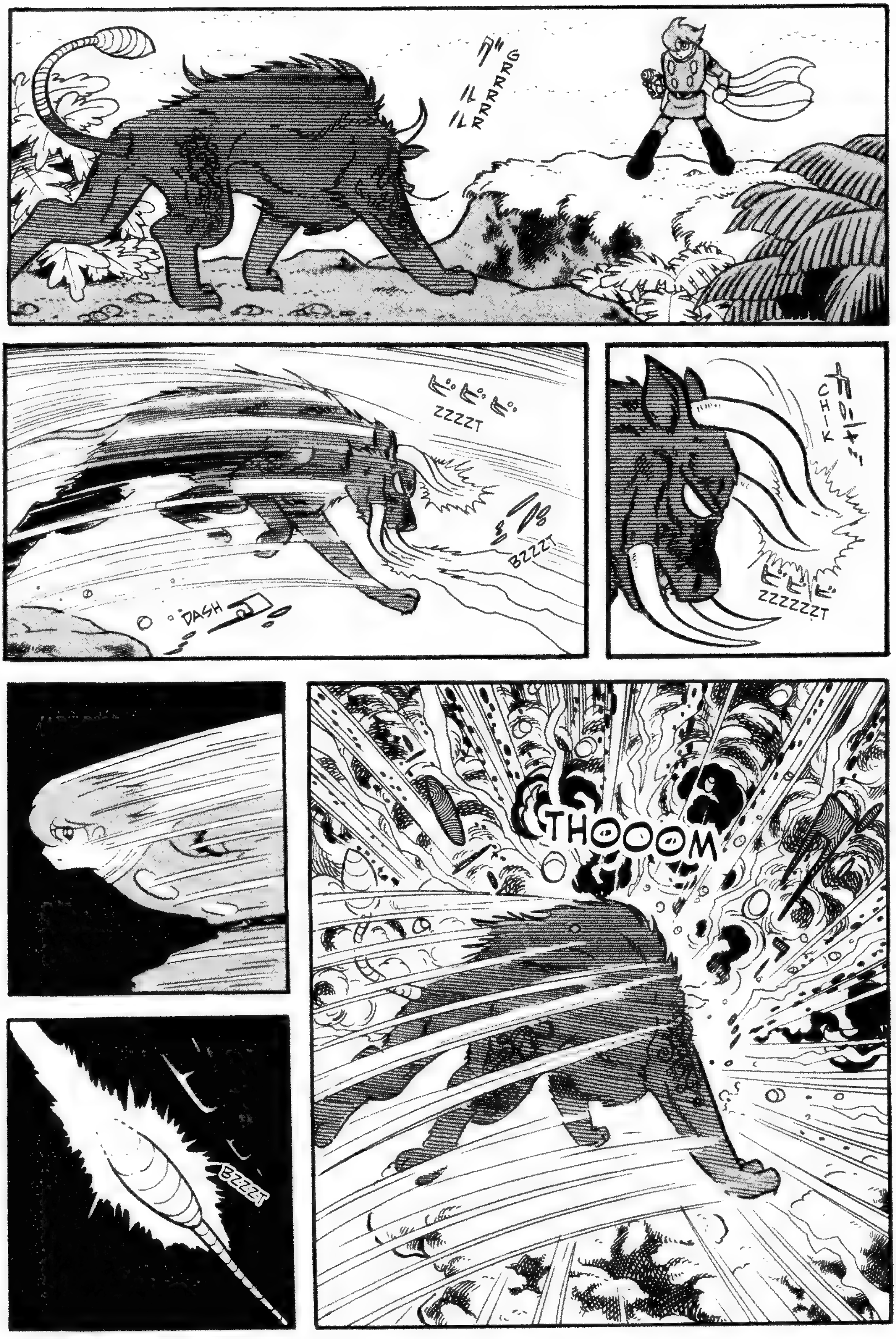

CHIK
WHOK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
SQUAWK

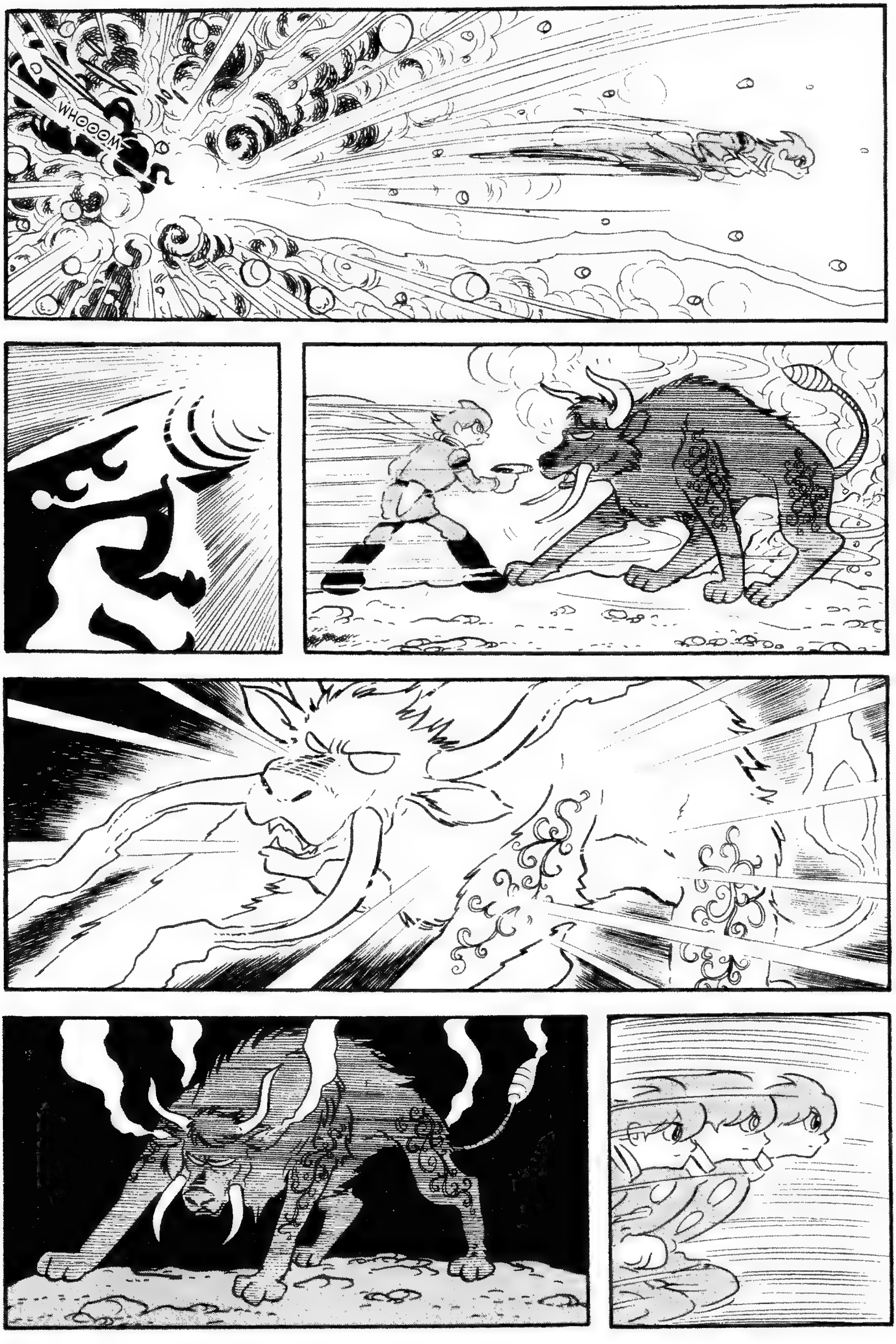

KAWHOOM
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
IT'S A BLACK GHOST SPY-EYE!
009! WATCH OUT!
CLATTER
CLANK

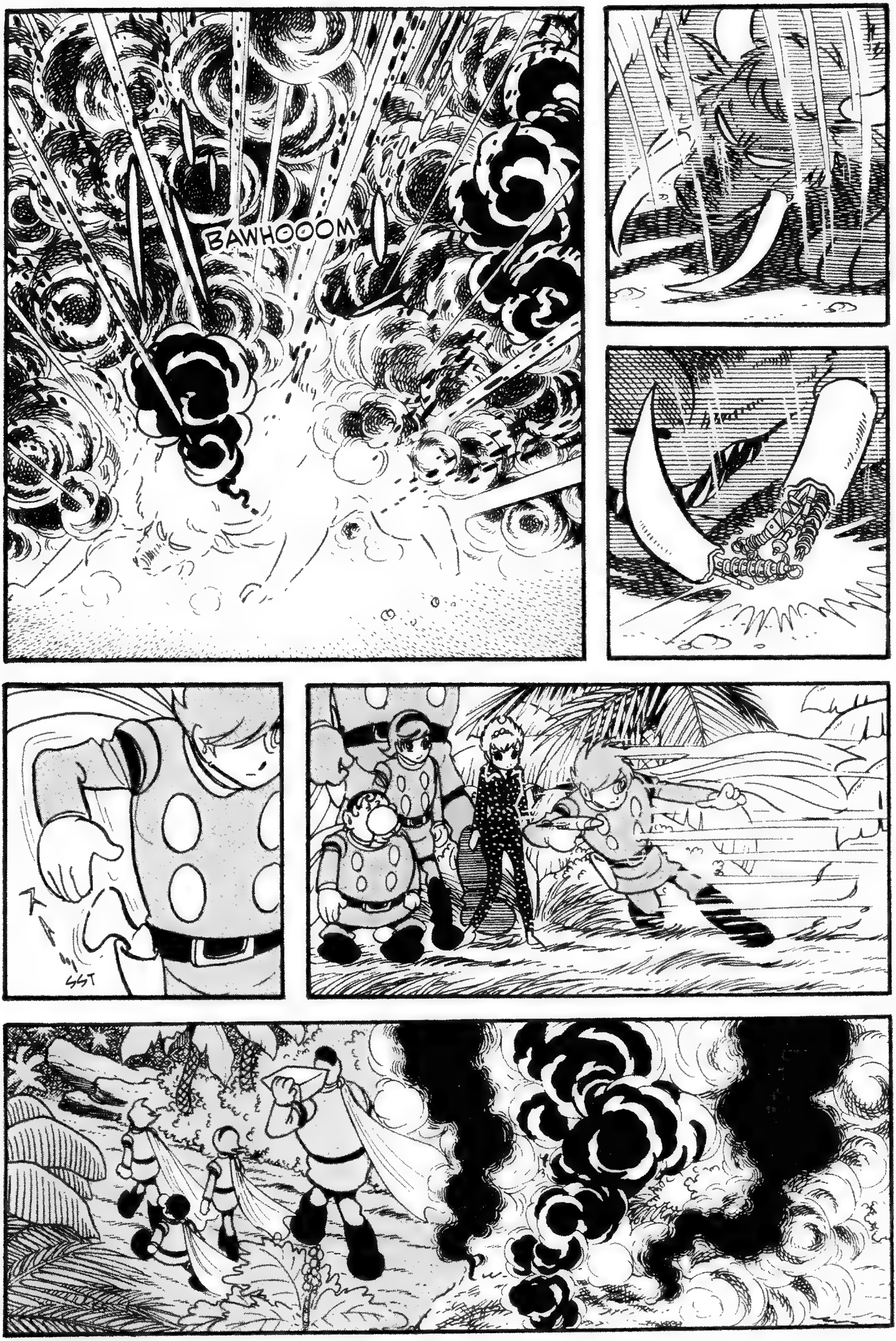

COME ON, JOE!
I'VE SAVED YOUR LIFE COUNTLESS TIMES!!
......
I'M YOUR FRIEND.
AND I'M 004.
RUSTLE
VENUS...
STAY DOWN. DON'T LET HIM SEE YOU.
......
BZZZT
004!
IF YOU SHOW YOUR FACE, HE'LL SHOOT ME FOR SURE.

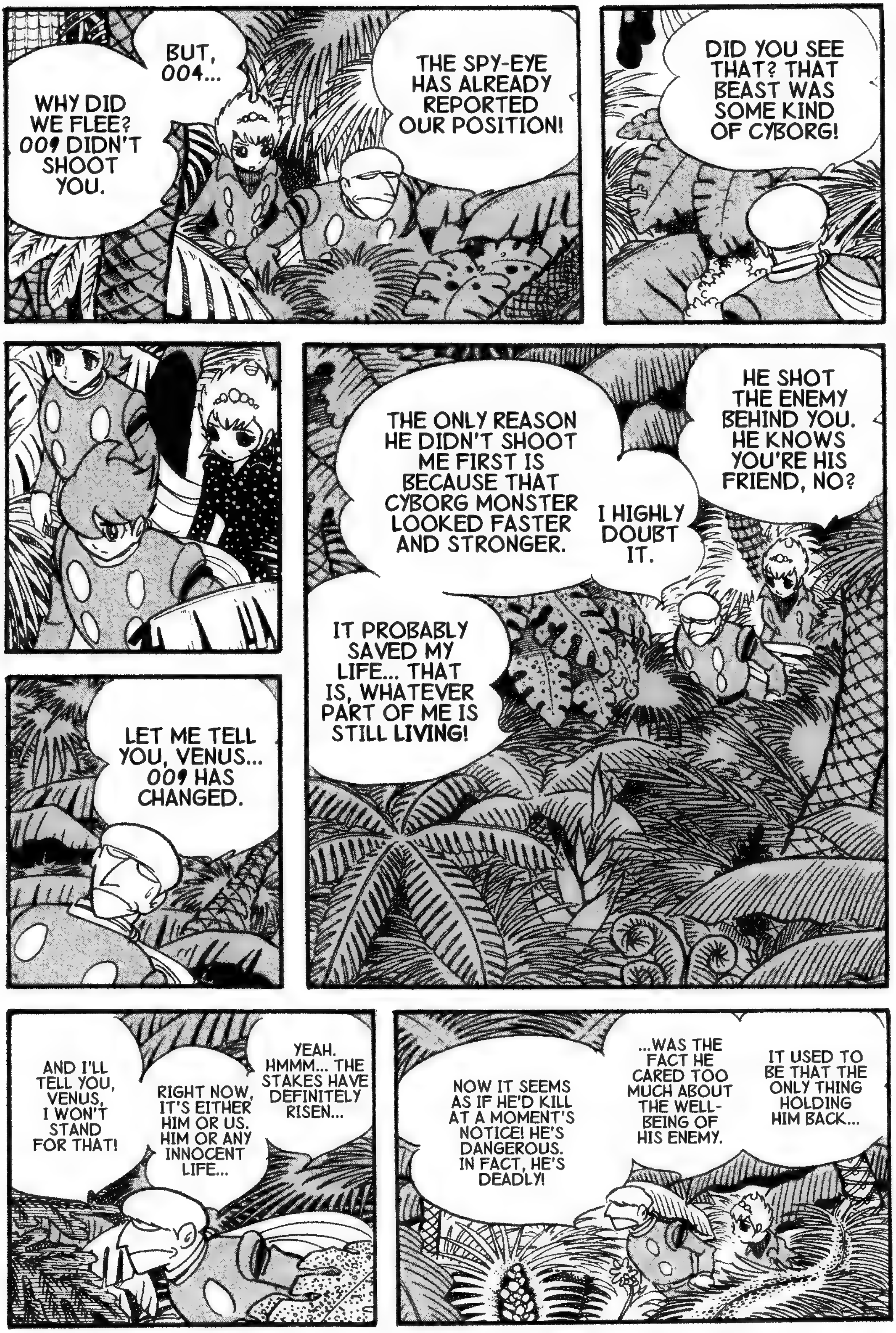

CRACKLE
BZZT
WHOOOSH
VENUS! RUN!!
RUN? WHERE?!
WAH?

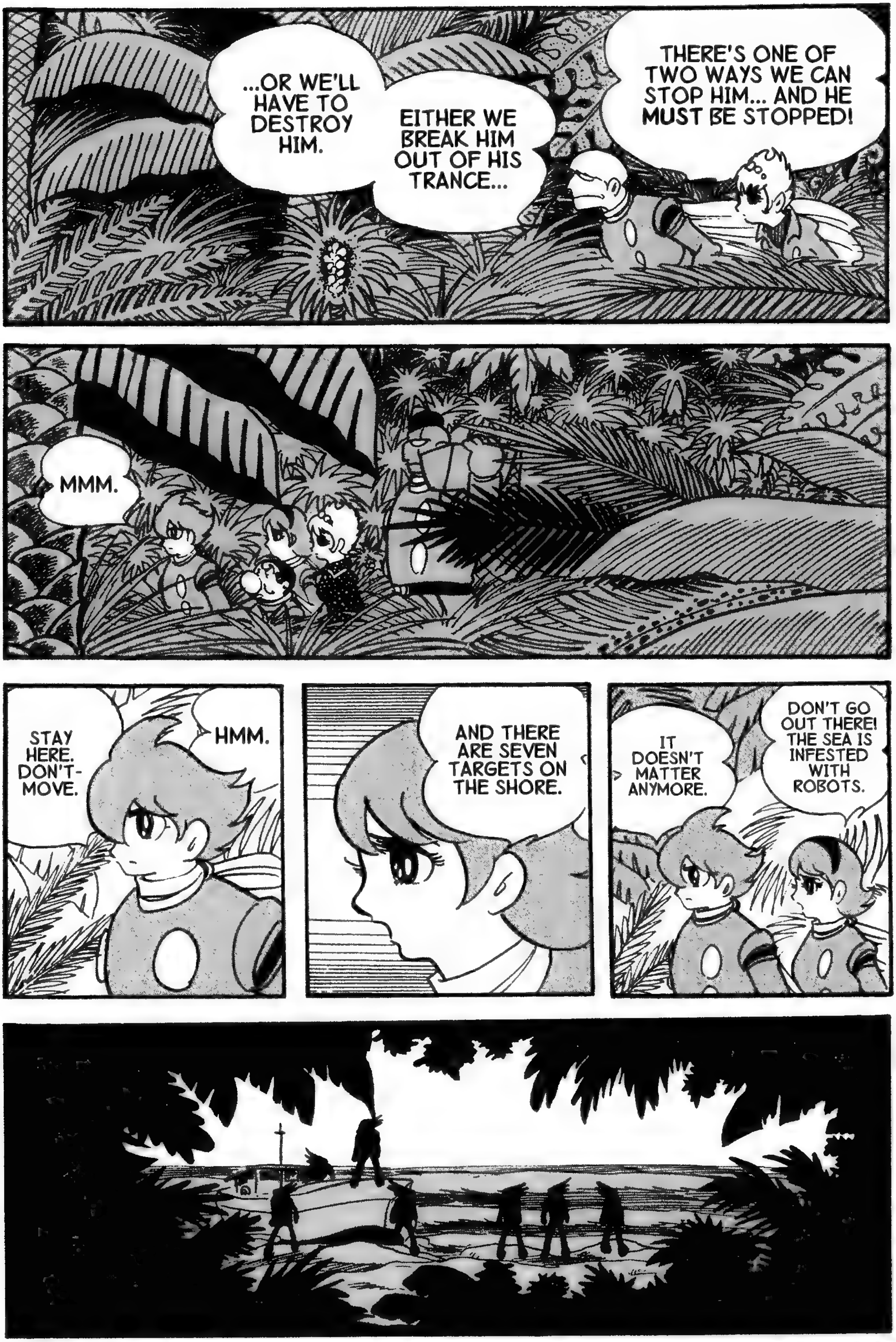

DASH
FWISH
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE!!
KAWHOOM
BZZZT
DASH
TAK

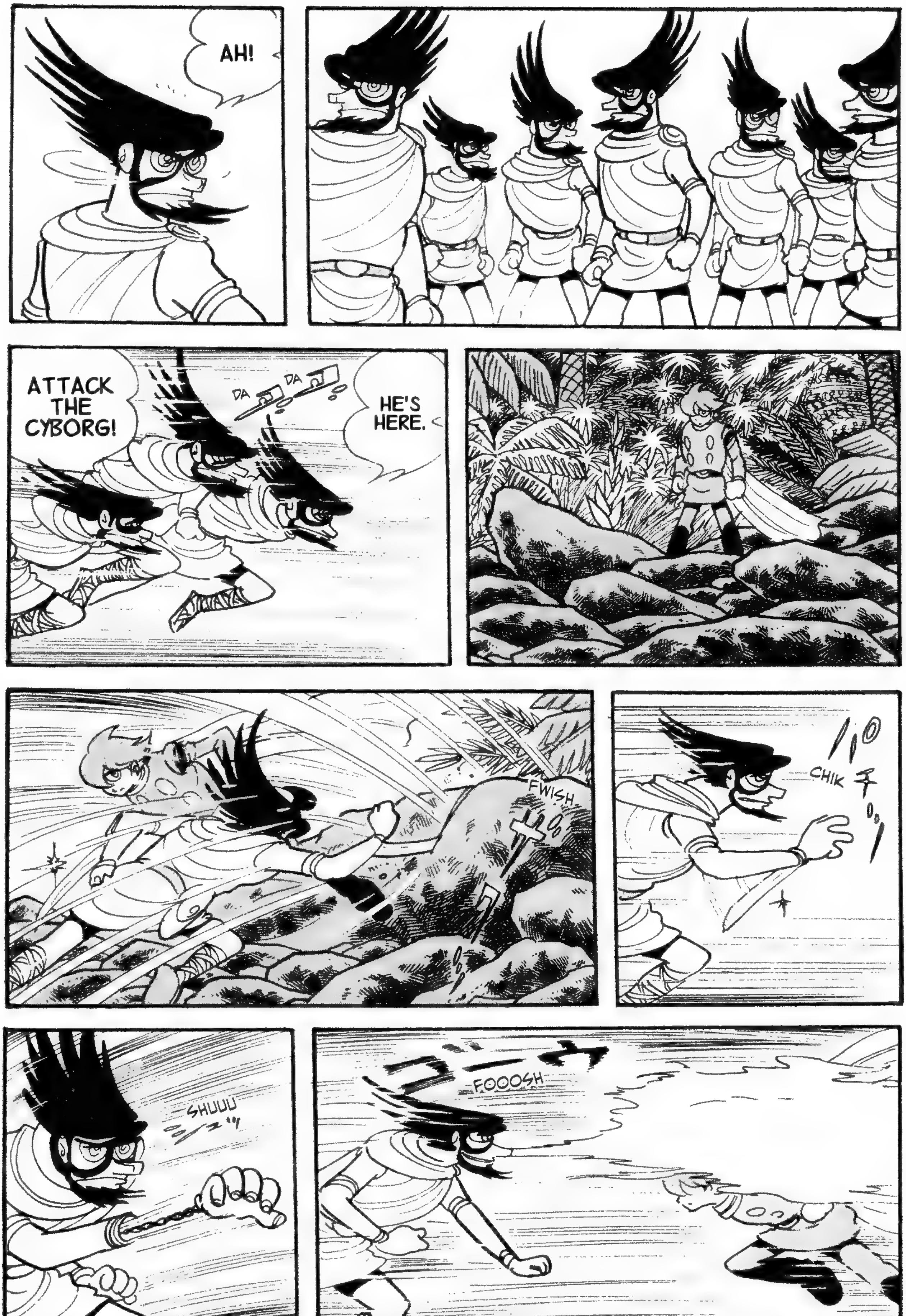

グルル
GRRRRRR
ビビビ
ZZZZT
パッ
BZZZT
DASH
ギロォッ
CHIK
ビビビ
ZZZZZZZT
BZZZT
THOOOM

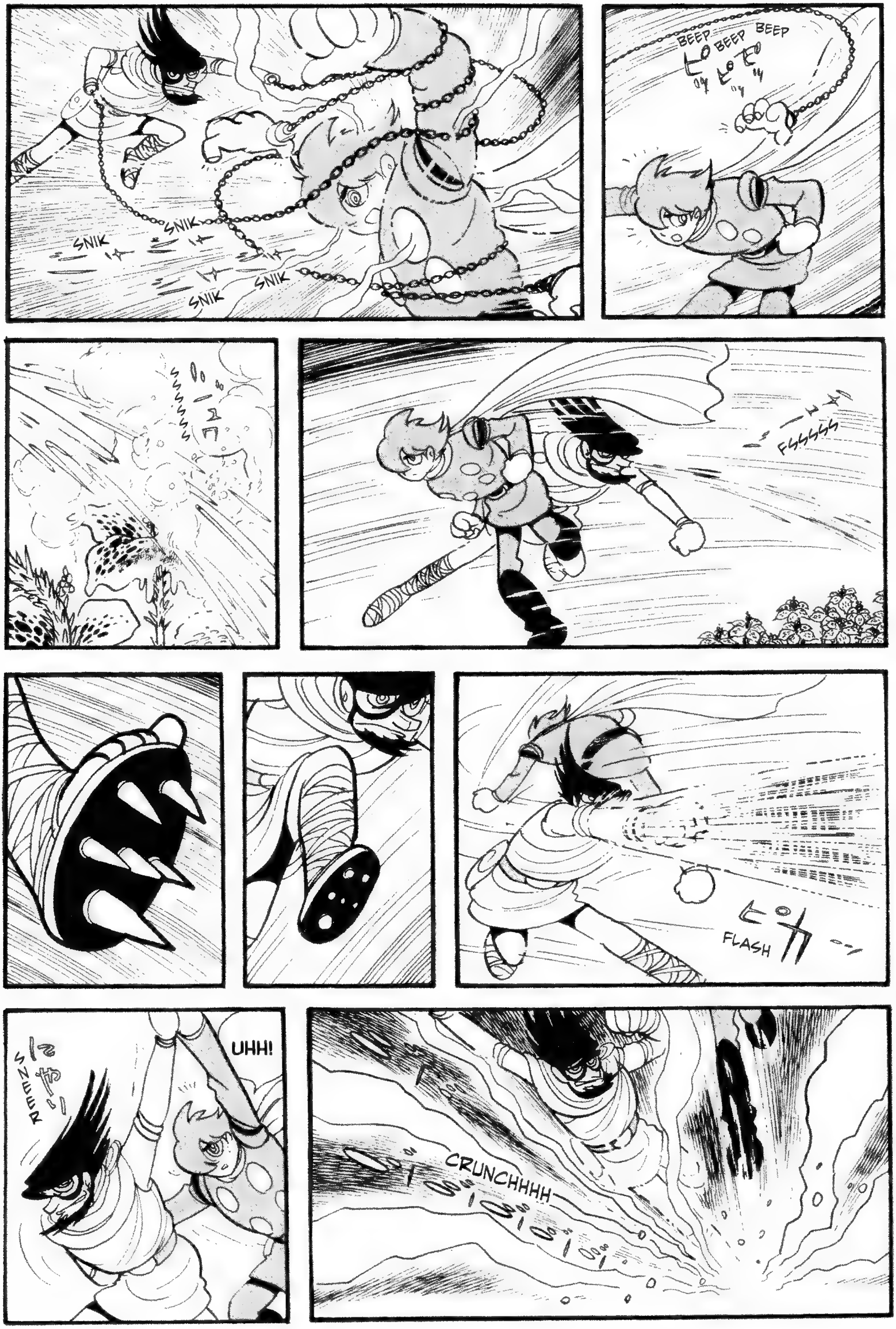

WHOOOM

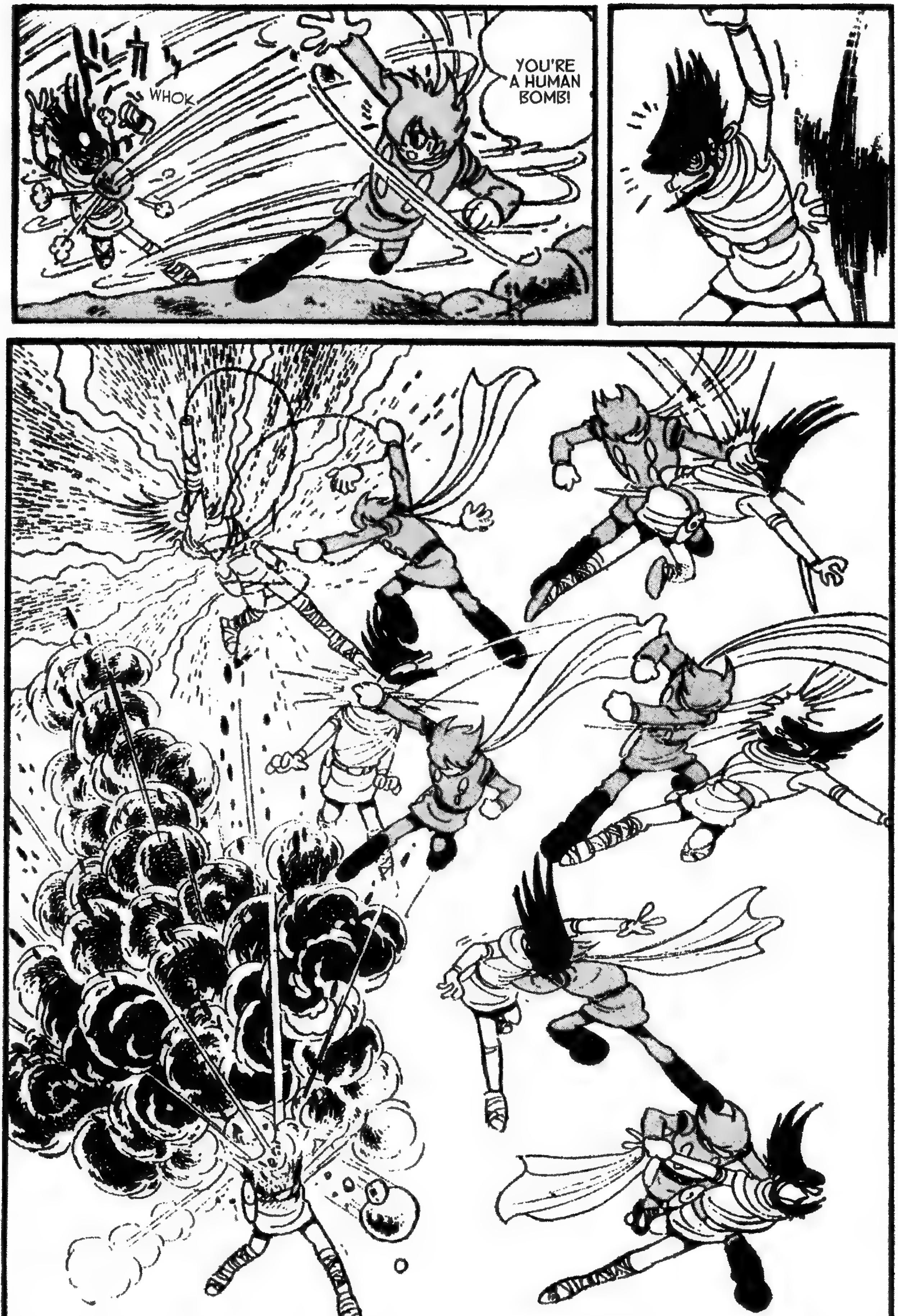

BAWHOOOM
スッ
SST

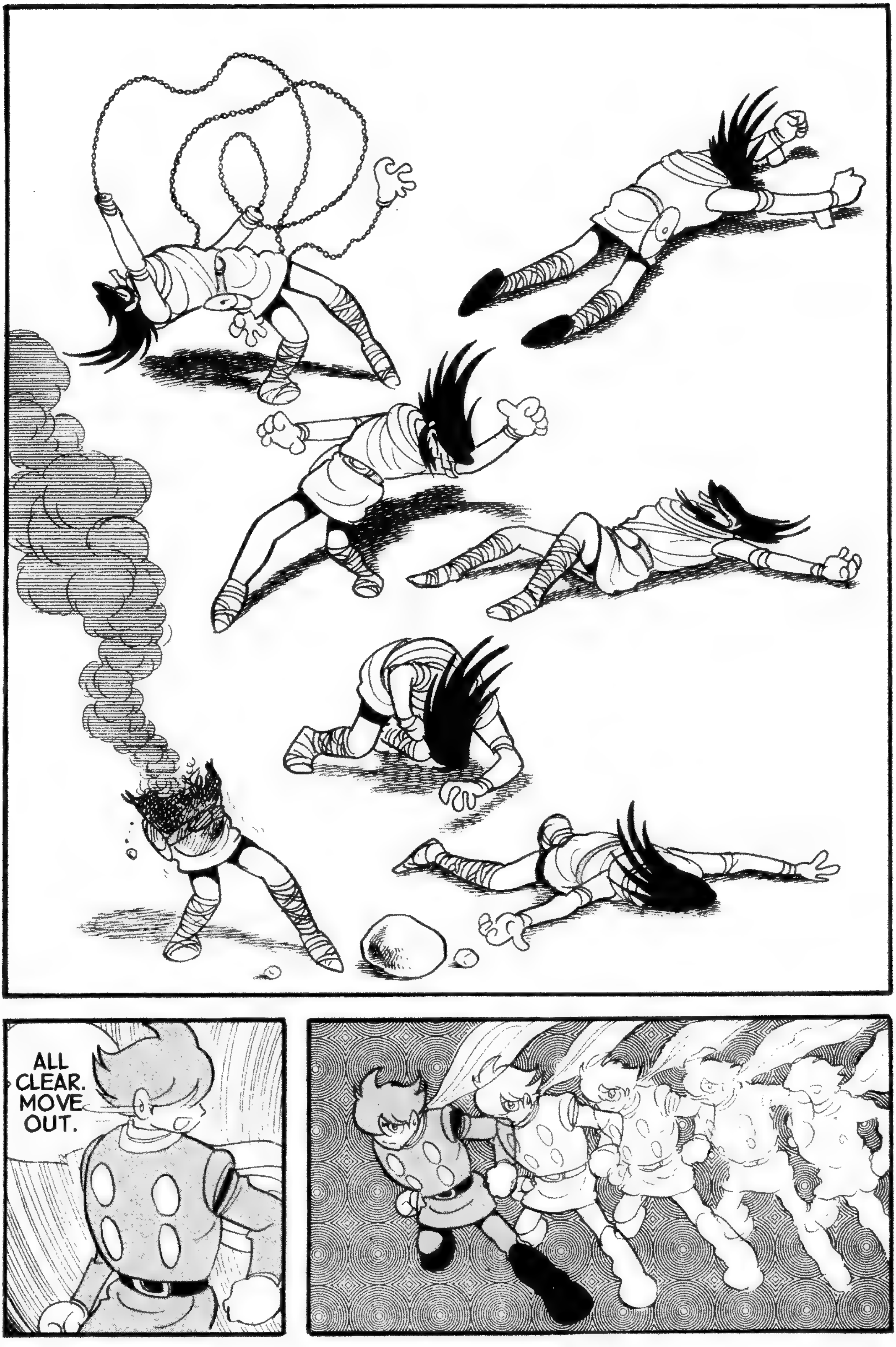

DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT BEAST WAS SOME KIND OF CYBORG!
THE SPY-EYE HAS ALREADY REPORTED OUR POSITION!
BUT, 004...
WHY DID WE FLEE? 009 DIDN'T SHOOT YOU.
HE SHOT THE ENEMY BEHIND YOU. HE KNOWS YOU'RE HIS FRIEND, NO?
I HIGHLY DOUBT IT.
THE ONLY REASON HE DIDN'T SHOOT ME FIRST IS BECAUSE THAT CYBORG MONSTER LOOKED FASTER AND STRONGER.
IT PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE... THAT IS, WHATEVER PART OF ME IS STILL LIVING!
LET ME TELL YOU, VENUS... 009 HAS CHANGED.
IT USED TO BE THAT THE ONLY THING HOLDING HIM BACK...
...WAS THE FACT HE CARED TOO MUCH ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF HIS ENEMY.
NOW IT SEEMS AS IF HE'D KILL AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE! HE'S DANGEROUS. IN FACT, HE'S DEADLY!
YEAH. HMMM... THE STAKES HAVE DEFINITELY RISEN...
RIGHT NOW, IT'S EITHER HIM OR US. HIM OR ANY INNOCENT LIFE...
AND I'LL TELL YOU, VENUS, I WON'T STAND FOR THAT!

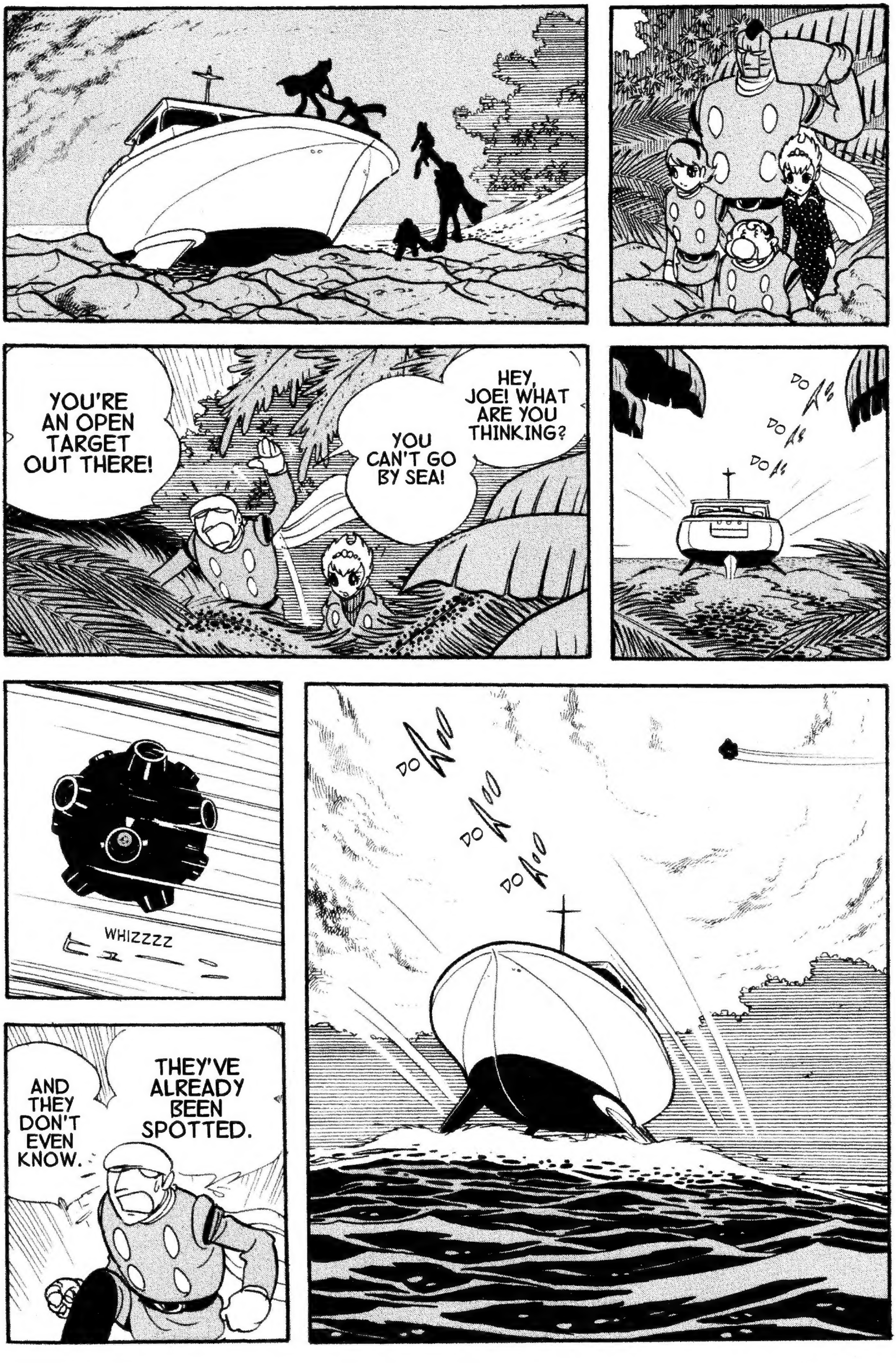

THERE'S ONE OF TWO WAYS WE CAN STOP HIM... AND HE MUST BE STOPPED!
EITHER WE BREAK HIM OUT OF HIS TRANCE...
...OR WE'LL HAVE TO DESTROY HIM.
MMM.
DON'T GO OUT THERE! THE SEA IS INFESTED WITH ROBOTS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
AND THERE ARE SEVEN TARGETS ON THE SHORE.
HMM.
STAY HERE. DON'T-MOVE.

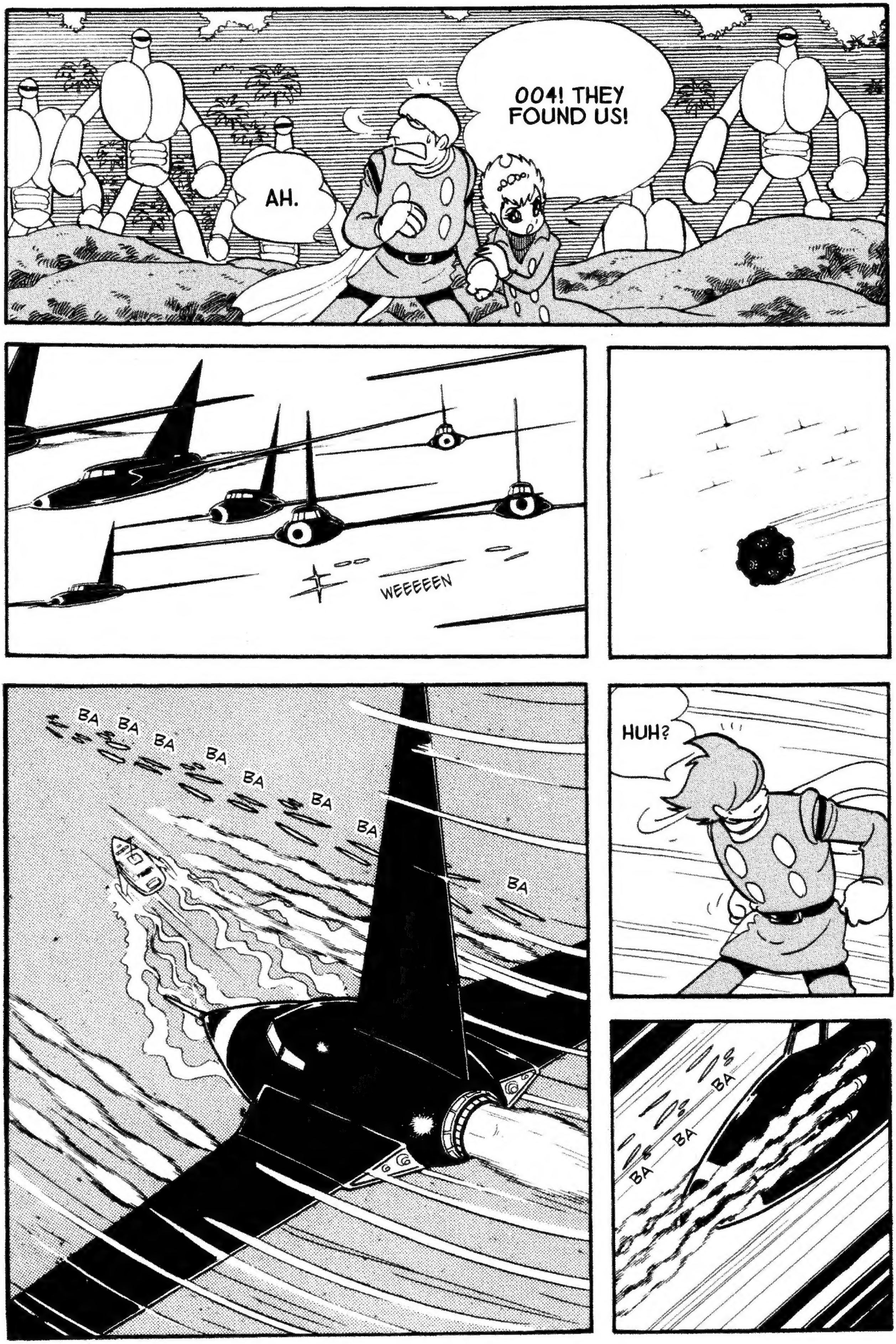

AH!
HE'S HERE.
DA DA
ATTACK THE CYBORG!
CHIK
FWISH
FOOOSH
SHUUU

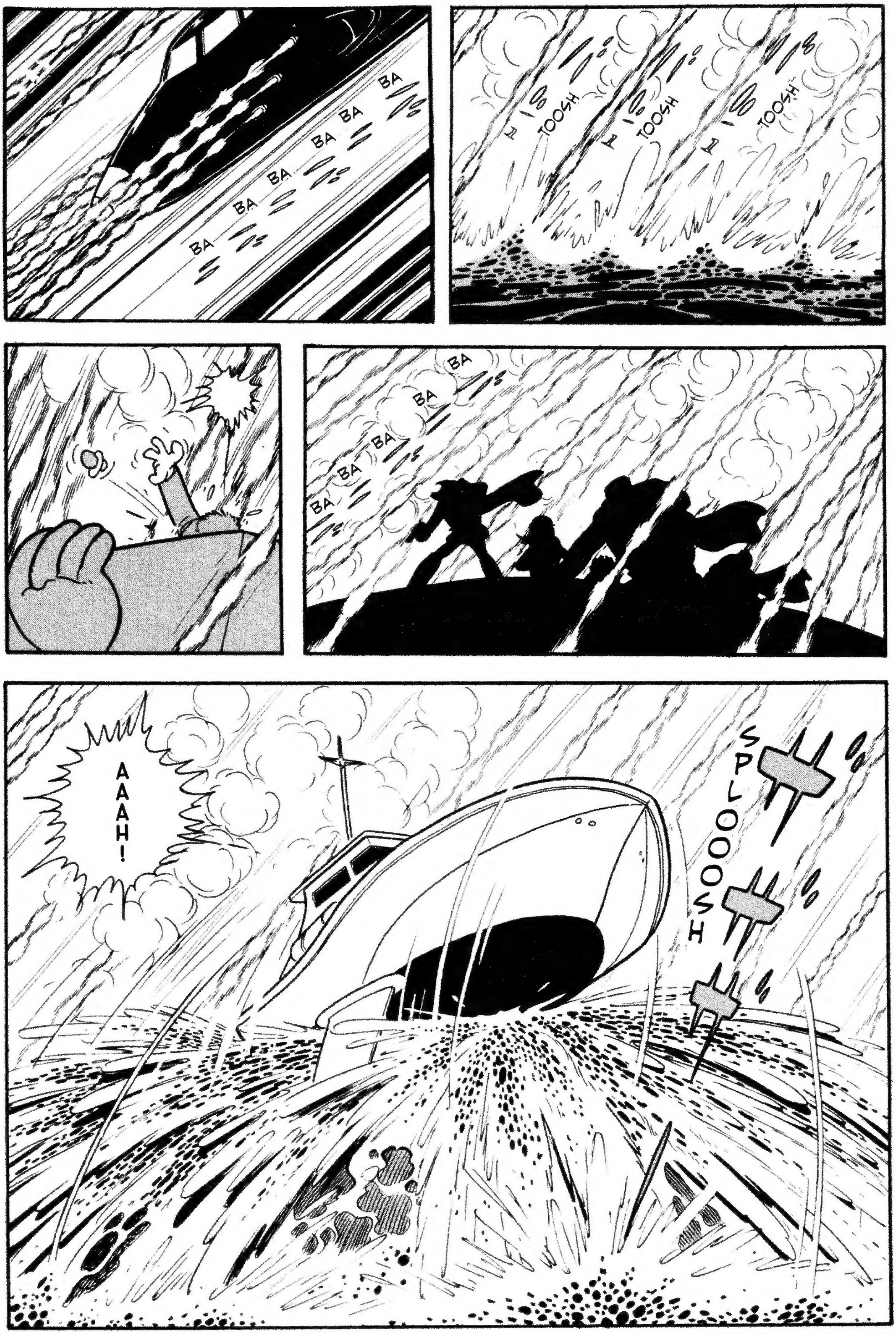

BEEP BEEP BEEP
SNIK
SNIK
SNIK
SNIK
FSSSSS
SSSSSS
FLASH
CRUNCHHHH
UHH!
SNEER

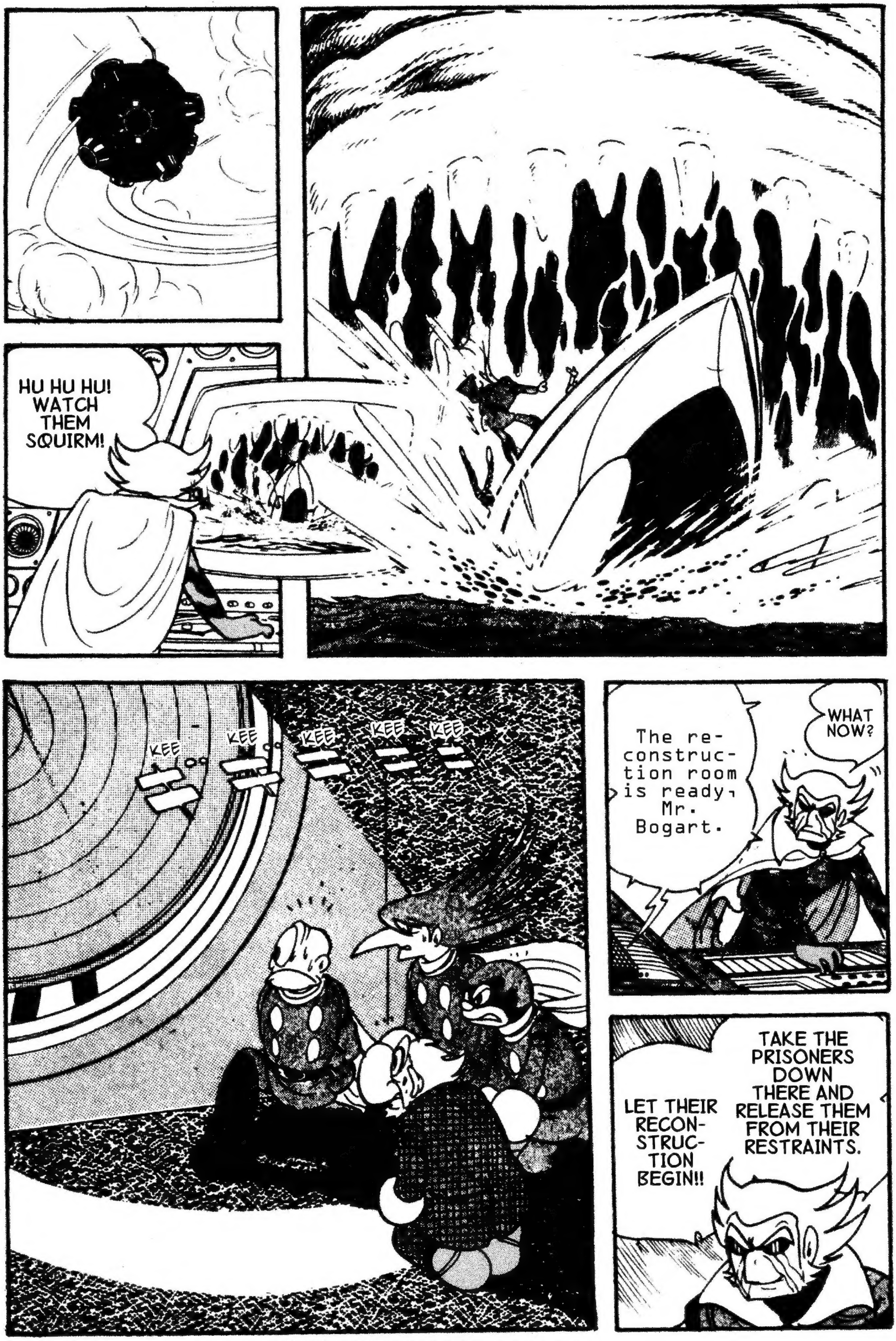

ドカッ
WHOK
YOU'RE A HUMAN BOMB!


ALL CLEAR. MOVE OUT.


HEY, JOE! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
YOU CAN'T GO BY SEA!
YOU'RE AN OPEN TARGET OUT THERE!
DO
DO
DO
WHIZZZZ
DO
DO
DO
THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN SPOTTED.
AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW.


AH.
004! THEY FOUND US!
WEEEEEN
BA BA BA BA BA BA BA BA
HUH?
BA BA BA


BA BA BA BA BA BA
TOOSH TOOSH TOOSH
BA BA BA BA BA
AAAH!
SPLOOOOSH


HU HU HU! WATCH THEM SQUIRM!
KEE KEE KEE KEE KEE
The reconstruction room is ready, Mr. Bogart.
WHAT NOW?
TAKE THE PRISONERS DOWN THERE AND RELEASE THEM FROM THEIR RESTRAINTS.
LET THEIR RECONSTRUCTION BEGIN!!

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 10